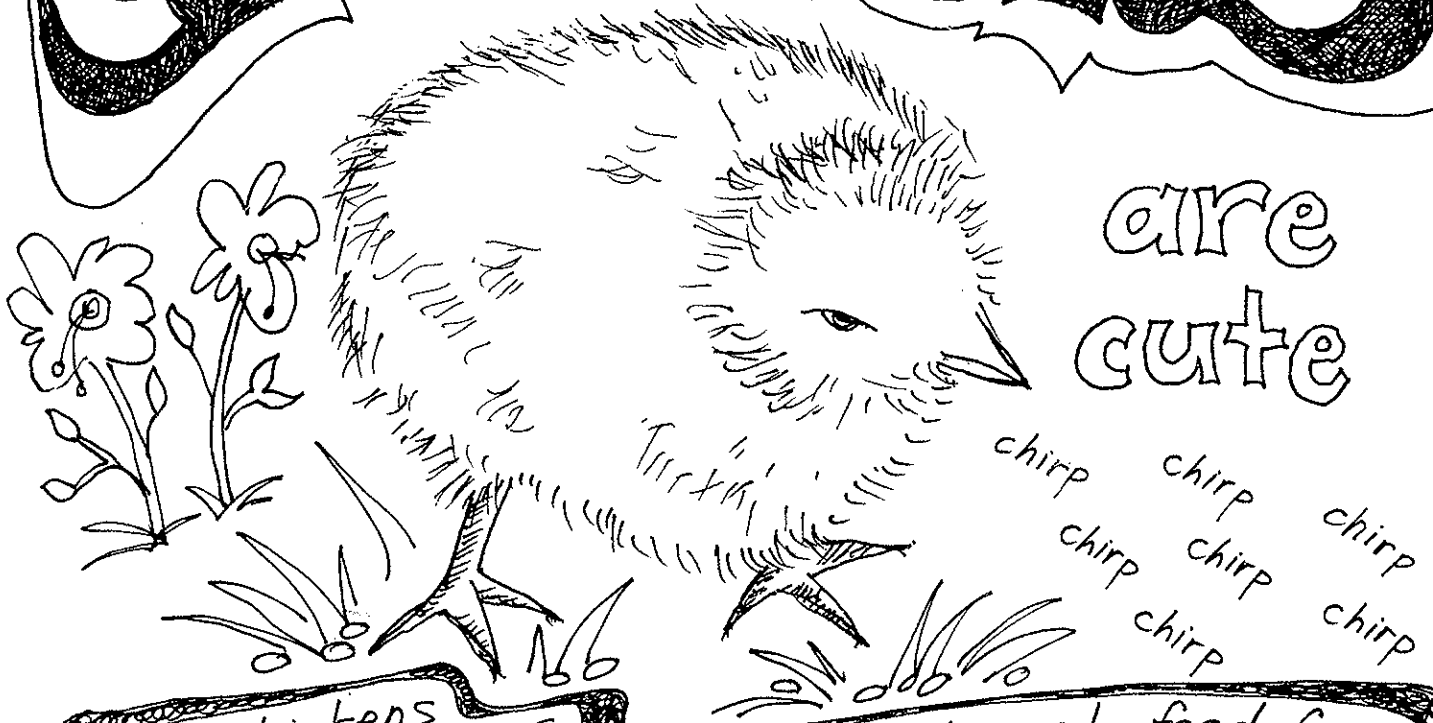


chickens



are
cute

Baby chickens
grow up to be hens
or roosters.
They love to walk around and peck food from
the ground.

They are very unhappy if they are put in small
cages.

Hens lay
eggs

ACTIVITY

Get up from your seat and crawl under your desk. Sit there for a while. Now imagine that you are forced to stay there for your **WHOLE LIFE**. You have nothing to do and you can't move. Now you can imagine what it might be like for a hen kept in a small cage all her life. Write your experience here.

Chicken

When most people hear the word 'chicken', they think of food - something they often see crumbed, in small pieces, maybe served in a box with fries.

Before this chicken arrived in the shop, it was a living being, just like us.

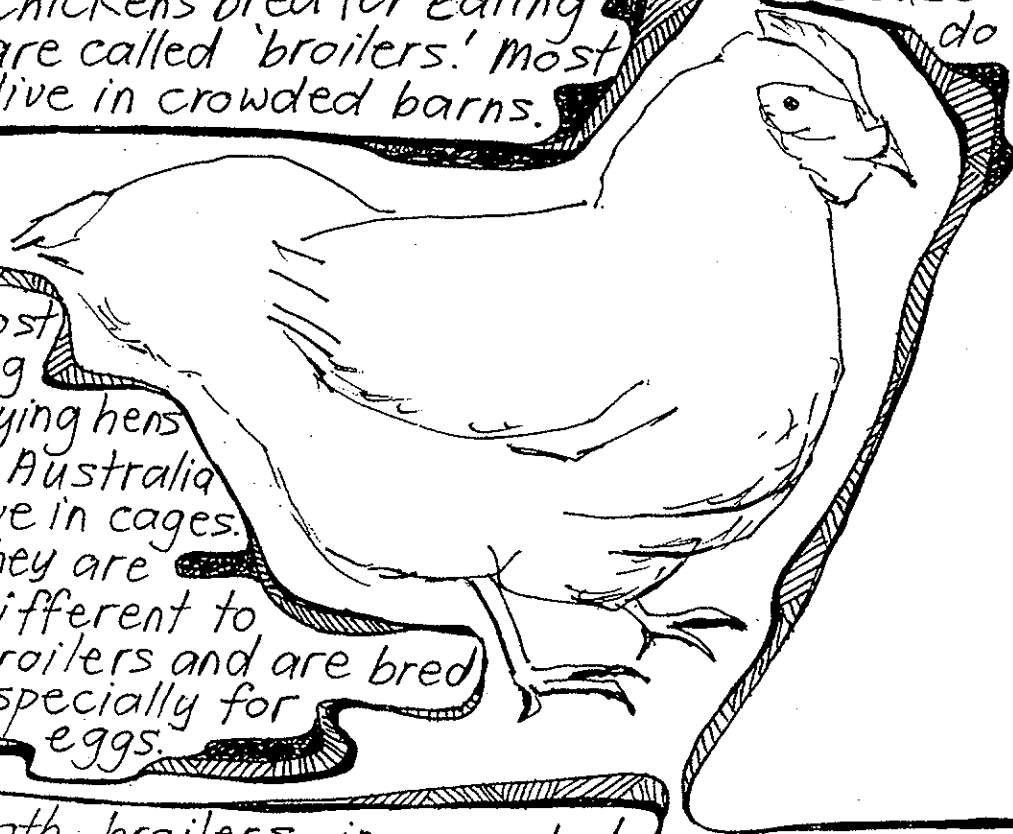
Chickens are birds and, like other birds, they like to peck at the ground, make nests, lay eggs and look after their babies when they hatch from the eggs.

Chickens bred for eating are called 'broilers.' Most live in crowded barns.

Find out about broilers. How long do they live before they are killed? What kind of diseases or injuries do they get from living in crowded barns?

Most egg laying hens in Australia live in cages. They are different to broilers and are bred especially for eggs.

Both broilers in crowded barns and egg laying hens in tiny cages suffer. What could people do to be more compassionate to chickens? After you've done some research about broilers, egg laying hens and free range farms, write your findings on the back.



Did you know that about 10 million Australian hens live their entire lives in small cages? Each hen's personal space is even smaller than

this page.

Can you imagine how sad and how crazy they must feel?

To get a sense of how it might be for these hens, try this:

Create a battery cage in your classroom. You could use things in the room like spare desks, cardboard, masking tape or string.

Have turns of four people at a time sitting in the cage. If you still have space between you, have five people so you get the same experience as the hens. Try and stay in the cage for half an hour.

Imagine being in there your **WHOLE LIFE**, crammed against others, unable to move, unable to even stretch your arms or legs. How would that feel?

Write about your experience here.

Find out about

Did you know?

In a battery hen farm a single hen's floor space is only three quarters of the size of this piece of paper!

Hens

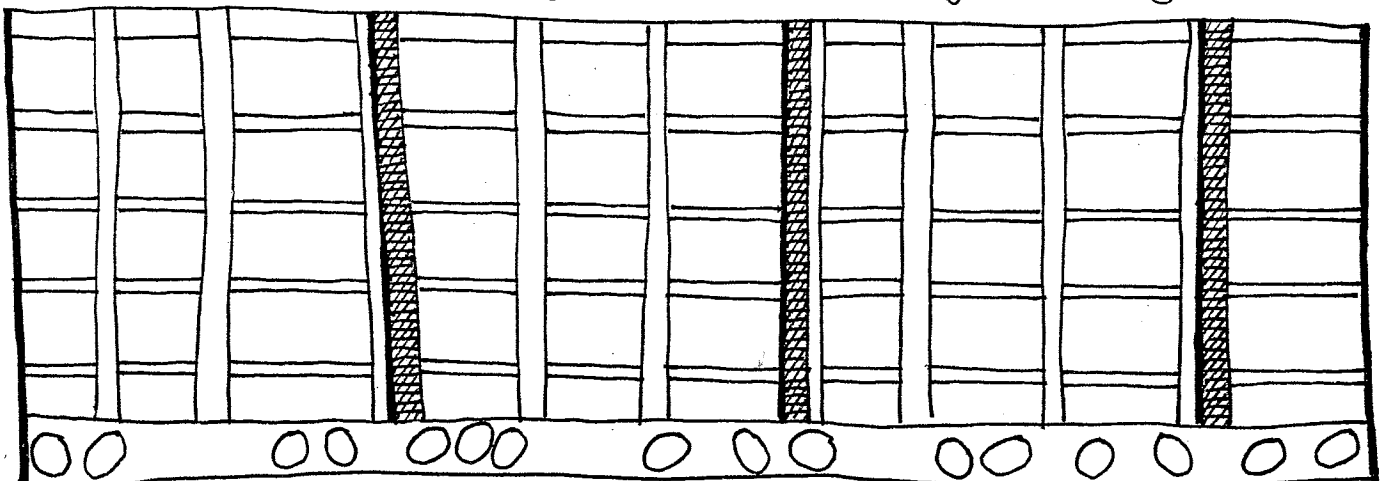
who live in factory farms.

What do you think it would be like to spend your **WHOLE LIFE** in a cage the size of your bathroom, squashed against a group of other people and never allowed to come out. Imagine that! How would you feel?

Find out by:

- asking an animal group to send information
- asking a battery hen farm to send information
- looking on the internet at battery hen farms
- having a class discussion

Below are some battery cages. Draw in as many hens as you can.



Cage eggs
come from
caged hens
like these
hens

Imagine

If these hens
could speak
English, what
would they
say?

A fully grown hen

in a battery hen farm. The space in
which she lives her entire life is
smaller than this piece of paper!



- What percentage of eggs in Australia come from hens who live in battery cages? 10% 40% 60% 90%
- How many hens live in battery cages in Australia? one thousand, thirty thousand, one million, 10 million
- A single battery farm will often contain 50 hens, 300 hens, 1,000 hens, many thousands

Circle
the
answers
which
you think
are right

Eggs

Do you know what a battery hen farm is?

If you look on the shelf at the supermarket you will see many different kinds of eggs. Many people don't know the difference between them and so just buy the cheapest without considering how the hens live.

Go to a supermarket to the egg section and look at all the different types. Notice all the different prices.

Vegetarian Eggs

Many people think this label means 'cruelty free' but all it means is that the food the hens are fed is vegetarian. The hens still live in cages or barns.

Farm Fresh Eggs

This label means absolutely nothing!

Barn Eggs

These hens live in big barns. They are not in cages but are still crammed in together so cannot really live a normal life. They can't get away from each other, can't feel the sun or the soil.

Most people in Australia buy cage eggs!

Why?

Free Range Eggs

Free Range means that the hens are not confined to cages or barns. Each free range farm is different and some are better than others.

Cage Eggs

Cage eggs are laid by hens confined to tiny, filthy, crowded cages for their whole lives. They live painful and miserable lives.

- Choose either:
- * a battery cage hen
 - * a barn hen or a
 - * free range hen

On the back of this page, write a story about a day in her life.

A Day in the Life

of a _____ Hen

Write some letters or e-mails to a few different types of egg farms.

Ask to be sent some information about how the hens live and for some pictures of the hens.

How do you think you would feel to be locked in a cage your whole life? To get an idea how it might feel, imagine this:

- * being trapped in a lift for a day, a week
- * being locked in a car for a week, a month
- * being locked in your bathroom for ever

Do you think putting an animal in a cage for their whole life is cruel? Why or why not?

DEBATE

There are a couple of situations where putting an animal in a cage is taking a couple of cat to a camp dog or your vet.

Can you think of some more examples?

Write a story titled **'Break out'**

The story can be about:

- * a battery hen
- * a factory farm pig
- * a rabbit in a fur farm escaping to freedom

How much do you know about chickens?

In relation to eggs and chickens answer the following:

What is a broiler?

How much space does a battery hen have to live in?

What do labels 'certified free range' or 'certified organic' mean?

Roughly how many hens live in battery cages in Australia?

What does the label 'farm fresh' eggs mean?

What does 'free range' chicken mean?

What does the label 'vegetarian eggs' mean?

What happens to battery hens once they can no longer lay eggs?

In what ways do battery hens suffer?