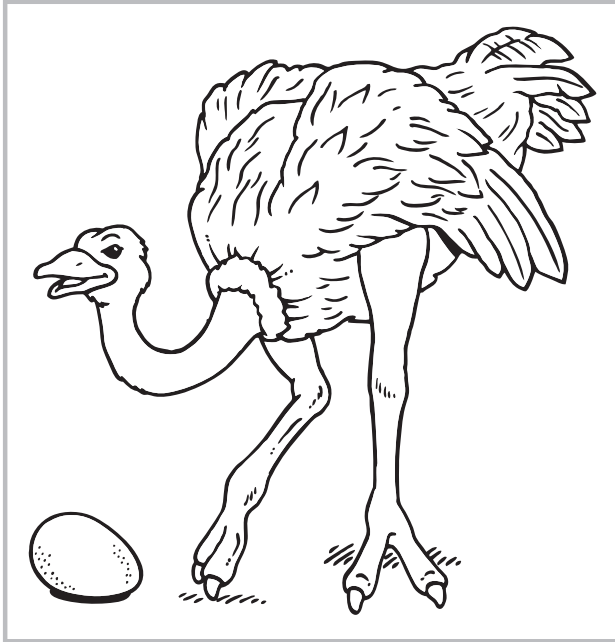


Eggs, Eggs, Eggs



If you have seen one egg, you have not seen all eggs! This is because not all eggs are the same. They come in different shapes. They come in different sizes and colors.

The biggest egg is the ostrich egg. An ostrich egg is on the average 6 inches (152 mm) in length. Its diameter is about 5 inches (127 mm). It weighs about 3 pounds (1.35 kg). How long would it take to hard boil an ostrich egg? It would take about two hours! (Hard boiling chicken eggs takes 10 to 15 minutes).

All murre eggs are pear-shaped, but they may be different colors. Some may be blue, green, or pink. They are marked with red, brown, or black specks. Why are murre eggs pear-shaped? Why are they different colors? Murres are sea birds that nest on high, rocky cliffs. A pear-shaped egg, if knocked or blown by a strong wind, does not roll straight. It spins in a circle because of its shape. The pear-shape helps keep the egg from falling into the ocean. The different colors help murre parents know what eggs are theirs.

The bird that lays the largest egg for its size is the kiwi. A kiwi that weighs 5 pounds (2.25 kg) can lay an egg that weighs 1 pound (.45 kg)!

The Egg Challenge

Manuel said, "I have two eggs. One of these eggs is raw. It has not been cooked. The other egg is hard-boiled. My egg challenge is this: tell me what egg is the hard-boiled egg without cracking the shell."

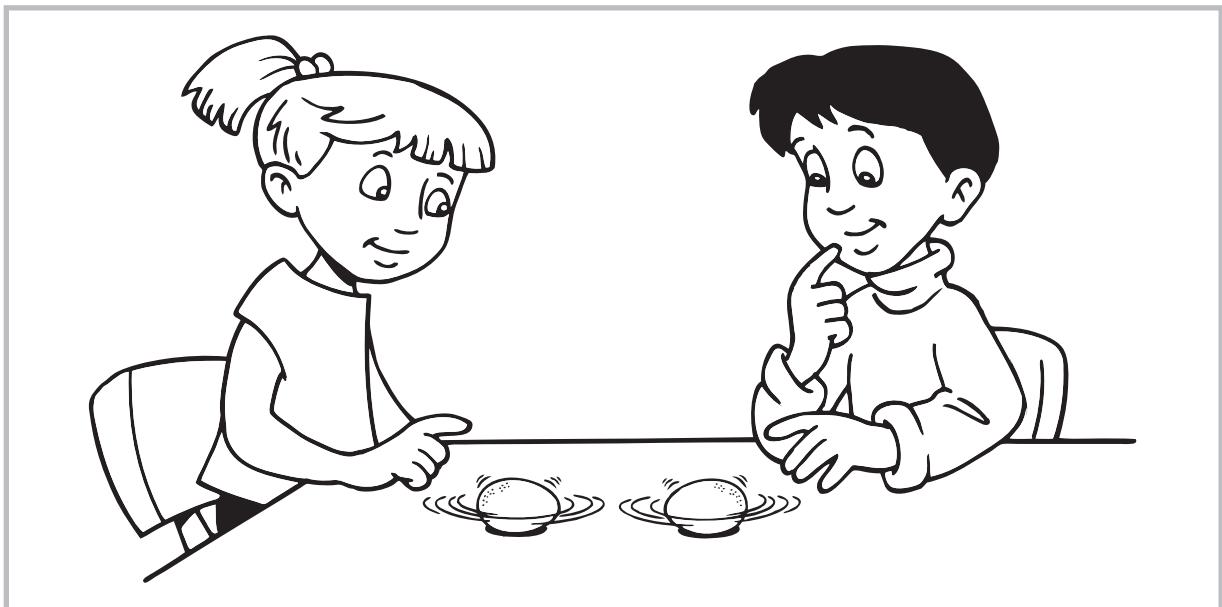
Samantha said, "I will answer your egg challenge if you can answer mine. My egg challenge is this: how can you remove the shell from a hard-boiled egg without cracking it?"

Manuel said, "Your challenge may seem impossible, but it is not. All you have to do is dissolve the shell. To dissolve the shell, put the egg in a jar and cover it with vinegar. In just two hours, the egg will begin to feel soft and rubbery. The shell will be completely gone by morning."

Samantha said, "I don't need vinegar to answer your challenge. All I need is a flick of my wrist! I will flick my wrist to spin both eggs on the table. I will stop them quickly, but then I will immediately let go of them. Only one of the eggs will start spinning again."

Manuel said, "The egg that keeps spinning will be the raw egg. This is because the liquid inside it is still moving."

Samantha said, "Manuel, let's go eat scrambled eggs and talk about what came first: the chicken or the egg."



Show What You Know

*Answer the questions on “Eggs, Eggs, Eggs” and “The Egg Challenge.”
You may look back at what you have read if you need to.*

1. What bird lays the biggest egg for its size?

- (A) kiwi
- (B) murre
- (C) chicken
- (D) ostrich

2. An egg is spinning. A person stops the egg by touching it but then lets go. The egg will continue to spin

- (A) as long as the liquid inside is dissolved.
- (B) as long as the liquid inside is hard boiled.
- (C) as long as the liquid inside is still moving.
- (D) as long as the liquid inside is covered in vinegar.

3. What do both stories have in common?

- (A) eggs
- (B) birds
- (C) shells
- (D) challenges

4. From the story, you can tell that

- (A) no birds can tell green from black.
- (B) few birds can tell green from black.
- (C) all birds can tell green from black.
- (D) some birds can tell green from black.

5. From the story, you can tell that Manuel and Samantha

- (A) knew murre eggs didn't spin.
- (B) knew egg shells could be removed.
- (C) knew that the chicken came before the egg.
- (D) knew how long it would take to hard boil an egg.

Show What You Know (cont.)

6. Write one fact about each kind of bird egg.

ostrich _____

chicken _____

murre _____

kiwi _____

7. Fill in the boxes about the egg challenges in the story.

Challenge	Who asked	Answer
First:		
Second:		

Write two or more sentences that tell what each story is about.

8. "Eggs, Eggs, Eggs" _____

9. "The Egg Challenge" _____

10. Write one paragraph telling why you think the chicken came before the egg or the egg came before the chicken. Remember that there is no right or wrong answer.
