



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## CHICKENS

Have you ever seen a city chicken? Some people enjoy keeping chickens as pets. Chickens are not cuddly like cats or friendly like dogs, but they do show affection.

A friendly chicken might hop on the back of your lawn chair. It could walk near you in the backyard. It might gently pull on your hair if you are lying on the grass. Chickens might even walk into your lap and eat food from your hand.

Before getting a pet chicken, think about its needs. Check to make sure that your city allows chickens to be kept as pets. Call your local animal shelter for information. Consider your neighbors. Would they mind if you kept chickens? Check your yard for size and escape paths. Chickens need exercise!

Gather the right supplies for chickens. A good chicken coop made of chicken wire and wood will house your pet. The coop must have a door for the chickens to pass through easily. Airtight containers keep the chicken food from getting stale or soggy. You will need clean-up supplies and nesting materials. A chicken breeder can give you a list of recommended items.

Are you ready for the responsibilities of keeping an active pet or are you “chicken”?

### STORY QUESTIONS

- Which is a **synonym** for the word *coop*?
  - cop
  - boring
  - enclosure
  - rooster
- Before getting a pet chicken, you should think about . . .
  - city laws, your neighbors, and pet supplies.
  - city laws, your neighbors, and what you can do with the eggs.
  - what the neighbors know about chickens and what they like to do.
  - how chickens sunbathe and if your neighbors want eggs.
- The author’s purpose for this passage is . . .
  - to entertain the reader with facts about farm chickens.
  - to inform the reader about raising chickens in a city.
  - to persuade the reader to stay away from chickens.
  - to suggest a price for eggs.
- Which could be a different title for this passage?
  - “Caring for Chicken Pox”
  - “Caring for Your Pet Chicken”
  - “Chickens Gone Wild”
  - “Playing with Chickens”