

## A Day on an Egg Farm

name \_\_\_\_\_

Informational text, acquiring vocabulary (RI.5.1-3; RI.5.4)

Read the article!



We began our tour of the egg farm in the hen house or laying house. It was a big barn-like building full of chickens, noisy chickens. At this farm, the chickens just run around inside the building. We asked if we could run around with them, but we weren't allowed. It was kind of dim and cool yet muggy inside. When we mentioned it, the farmer explained that light, temperature and **humidity** are important factors for hens.

While we were inside watching the chickens' **antics**, the hens were fed. Their feed—grains, corn, minerals and soybean oil meal—poured **automatically** into feeding **troughs** in the floor. As the troughs filled up, most of the chickens lost interest in us and each other. They just wanted to eat.

The hens' eggs were being collected automatically. We followed the conveyor belt carrying eggs to the **refrigerated** packing room. From there, the eggs were rolled onto another **conveyor** belt where they were washed and **sanitized**.

Next, the eggs were **candled**. Light underneath the eggs glowed through the translucent shells so they could be **inspected** for imperfections such as cracks, dirt or blood spots.

Then the eggs were **graded**. We figured the best eggs got As, but the best eggs get AAs. That made us laugh and we asked our teacher if we could start earning double As too. Once the eggs were graded and sorted, they were packed to ship to stores. A big one-armed robot picked up boxes of egg cartons and loaded them onto shipping pallets. It was pretty amazing that the robot could be so big yet so gentle that it didn't break any **fragile** eggs.

Our final stop was at the gift shop where most of us had a **healthy** snack of boiled eggs before we piled back onto our bus and headed back to school.

Find the boldface word in the article that matches each definition.

1. \_\_\_\_\_: cleaned, disinfected
2. \_\_\_\_\_: something that will lead to good health
3. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_: kept cool or cold
4. \_\_\_\_\_: tested eggs using a light
5. \_\_\_\_\_: amusing or playful behaviors
6. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_: mechanically, without any help
7. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_: easily broken
8. \_\_\_\_\_: narrow, open containers for animal food or water
9. \_\_\_\_\_: examined, looked over carefully
10. \_\_\_\_\_: assessed the quality
11. \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_: lets some light through
12. \_\_\_\_\_: dampness in the air

What's the door to the chicken house called?

To answer the riddle, write each circled letter on the matching numbered line or lines.

\_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ "

6 2 7      12 11 9      8 10 1 9 4 3

**Bonus:** Choose at least five different words from the article. Make a puzzle like the one on this page using those words.

# A Day on an Egg Farm

## Answer Key

- |                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. sanitized     | 8. troughs              |
| 2. healthy       | 9. inspected            |
| 3. refrigerated  | 10. graded              |
| 4. candled       | 11. translucent         |
| 5. antics        | 12. humidity            |
| 6. automatically |                         |
| 7. fragile       | <u>THE "HEN-TRANCE"</u> |

**BONUS** Answers will vary.

