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**Level 4 – 11th November 2024**

## Scientists say the egg came before the chicken

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg-4.html>

Scientists may have solved one of life's greatest mysteries - the age-old question of whether the chicken or the egg came first. This has baffled us for centuries. However, researchers in Switzerland believe the egg came first. The scientists studied a tiny marine organism that dates back a billion years. They found it can form cellular structures that are similar to animal embryos. Thus, a prehistoric chicken did not need to lay an egg.

The organism was first discovered in 2017. It has offered many insights into ancient life. A researcher said it "allows us to go back in time a billion years". The genetics behind egg fertilization and embryo development were present before animal life existed. This means nature made eggs before chickens arrived. A simpler answer to the chicken and egg problem is that chickens appeared 10,000 years ago, whereas eggs arrived millions of years ago.

Sources: <https://www.ladbible.com/news/science/which-came-first-chicken-or-egg-answer-824479-20241109>  
<https://metro.co.uk/2024/11/08/scientists-crack-whether-chicken-egg-came-first-21953962/>  
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-14059591/Which-came-chicken-egg-cracked-debate.html>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. solved one of life's          | a. marine organism      |
| 2. the age-                      | b. us for centuries     |
| 3. This has baffled              | c. an egg               |
| 4. The scientists studied a tiny | d. back a billion years |
| 5. that dates                    | e. greatest mysteries   |
| 6. cellular                      | f. embryos              |
| 7. similar to animal             | g. old question         |
| 8. lay                           | h. structures           |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The organism was first       | a. into ancient life       |
| 2. It has offered many insights | b. 10,000 years ago        |
| 3. it allows us to              | c. fertilization           |
| 4. egg                          | d. chicken and egg problem |
| 5. embryo                       | e. life existed            |
| 6. present before animal        | f. discovered in 2017      |
| 7. A simpler answer to the      | g. development             |
| 8. chickens appeared            | h. go back in time         |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg-4.html>

Scientists may have (1) \_\_\_\_\_ life's greatest mysteries - the age-old (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the chicken or the egg came first. This has (3) \_\_\_\_\_ centuries.

However, researchers in Switzerland believe the egg came first. The scientists studied a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that dates back a billion years. They found it can (5) \_\_\_\_\_ that are similar to animal embryos. Thus, a prehistoric chicken did not need to (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The organism was first discovered in 2017. It has (7) \_\_\_\_\_ into ancient life. A researcher said it "allows us to go (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a billion years". The genetics behind (9) \_\_\_\_\_ embryo development were present before (10) \_\_\_\_\_. This means nature made eggs before chickens arrived. (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to the chicken and egg problem is that chickens appeared 10,000 years ago, (12) \_\_\_\_\_ millions of years ago.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg-4.html>

Scientists may have solved one of life's greatest mysteries - the age-old question of whether the chicken or the egg came first. This has baffled us for centuries. However, researchers in Switzerland believe the egg came first. The scientists studied a tiny marine organism that dates back a billion years. They found it can form cellular structures that are similar to animal embryos. Thus, a prehistoric chicken did not need to lay an egg. The organism was first discovered in 2017. It has offered many insights into ancient life. As researchers said it "allows us to go back in time a billion years". The genetics behind egg fertilization and embryo development were present before animal life existed. This means nature made eggs before chickens arrived. A simpler answer to the chicken and egg problem is that chickens appeared 10,000 years ago, whereas eggs arrived million of years ago.

# CHICKENS AND EGGS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about chickens and eggs in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

