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**Level 5 – 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-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg-5.html>

One of life's greatest mysteries may have been solved. Scientists believe they have answered the age-old question of whether the chicken or the egg came first. This problem has baffled us for centuries. However, researchers in Switzerland believe they have cracked this mystery. They suggest the egg came first. The scientists studied a tiny marine organism. The single-celled species dates back over a billion years. The researchers found it can form multi-cellular structures that are similar to animal embryos. A prehistoric chicken did not need to lay an egg.

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

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-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. One of life's greatest    | a. mystery              |
| 2. answered the age-         | b. cellular structures  |
| 3. This problem has baffled  | c. an egg               |
| 4. they have cracked this    | d. marine organism      |
| 5. scientists studied a tiny | e. us for centuries     |
| 6. dates back                | f. mysteries            |
| 7. it can form multi-        | g. over a billion years |
| 8. lay                       | h. old question         |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. the organism was first       | a. answer                |
| 2. She said it has offered      | b. time a billion years  |
| 3. ancient life                 | c. life existed          |
| 4. go back in                   | d. for millions of years |
| 5. egg fertilization and embryo | e. many insights         |
| 6. present before animal        | f. development           |
| 7. A more straightforward       | g. discovered in 2017    |
| 8. eggs have existed            | h. forms                 |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg-5.html>

One of life's greatest mysteries may (1) \_\_\_\_\_.

Scientists believe they have answered the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of whether the chicken or the egg came first. This problem has (3) \_\_\_\_\_ centuries. However, researchers in Switzerland believe they have cracked this mystery. They suggest the egg came first. The scientists studied a (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The single-celled species dates back over a billion years. The researchers found it can (5) \_\_\_\_\_ that are similar to animal embryos. A (6) \_\_\_\_\_ not need to lay an egg.

A researcher told "Nature Journal" (7) \_\_\_\_\_ was first discovered in 2017 in Hawaii. She said it has offered many (8) \_\_\_\_\_ life forms. She said the species "(9) \_\_\_\_\_ go back in time a billion years".

The researcher said the genetics behind egg fertilization (10) \_\_\_\_\_ were present before animal life existed. This means nature could have made eggs before chickens arrived. (11) \_\_\_\_\_ answer to the chicken and egg problem is that chickens appeared 10,000 years ago, whereas eggs have (12) \_\_\_\_\_ of years.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2411/241111-the-chicken-or-the-egg-5.html>

One of life's greatest mysteries may have been solved. Scientists believe they have answered the age-old question of whether the chicken or the egg came first. This problem has baffled us for centuries. However, researchers in Switzerland believe they have cracked this mystery. They suggest the egg came first. These scientists studied a tiny marine organism. This single-celled species dates back over a billion years. The researchers found it can form multi-cellular structures that are similar to animal embryos. A prehistoric chicken did not need to lay an egg. A researcher told "Nature Journal" that the organism was first discovered in 2017 in Hawaii. She said it has offered many insights into ancient life forms. She said the species "allows us to go back in time a billion years". The researchers said the genetics behind egg fertilization and embryo development were present before animal life existed. This means nature could have made eggs before chickens arrived. A more straightforward answer to the chicken and egg problem is that chickens appeared 10,000 years ago, whereas eggs have existed for millions of years.

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

