

Procedure for Candling Eggs

Supplies:

Piece of cardboard with quarter-sized hole in center
Classroom Projector
Eggs
Dark room

Preparation:

Using a piece of cardboard (cardboard from the back of a paper pad works well) and a quarter, draw a circle in the center of the cardboard.
Cut the circle out.

Place the projector on a table or desk in a dark room.*

Procedure:

Hold the cardboard against the lit lens of the slide projector with the hole in front of the lens.

Position the egg against the hole in the cardboard.

The light from the projector should make the egg translucent.

What you will see if the embryo is living:

After 5 to 7 days: you should see blood vessels forming.

At two weeks: you should see more vessels with a beating heart (dense shadow). You may also begin to see the developing embryo.

Beyond two weeks: You will be able to view the embryo as it grows and fills the shell. Depending on the strength of the light bulb in the projector, it may look like a growing dark blob or be more defined. See transparency page C in the curriculum guide for detailed pictures of the developing embryo.

Caution: Be sure to note the position of the egg before removing it from the incubator and return it to the same position. This is especially important after day 17 of incubation as the chick is trying to position itself in the egg to hatch. Excess movement during these last few days can disorient the chick, making it unable to hatch.

***Note – if using a digital projector, open a blank Word, PowerPoint, Pages, or Keynote Document to create a bright / white light, which will allow you to more easily candle your eggs.**