

THE ANATOMY OF AN EGG

SHELL

- The first line of defence for the egg, stopping bacteria getting in
- Breed of hen will determine the colour but this is usually white or brown
- Pores allow moisture to enter and leave the egg

SHELL MEMBRANES

- There is an inner and an outer layer
- This is another layer of defence against bacteria entering the egg

ALBUMEN

- This is the official name of the white of the egg
- It is made of two layers - one thick, one thin
- It contains high-quality protein, minerals and water

CHALAZA

- A pair of spiral bands that anchor the centre of the egg in place
- These are more prominent the fresher the egg

AIR CELL

- This cools after being laid at the wide end of the egg
- The fresher the egg, the smaller this bit will be

GERMINAL DISC

- This appears as a slight depression on the surface of the yellow part of the egg
- This is where the egg could be fertilised for reproduction

YOLK MEMBRANE

- It's job is to surround and protect the yellow part of the egg
- Is always stronger when it's fresher

YOLK

- This is the major source of all the good stuff you find in an egg; vitamins, minerals, proteins and fatty acids
- Represents one-third of the egg's weight
- Usually yellow but ranges in colour from light to dark orange

