Name_____ Reading informational text (RI.2.1)

"Egg-cellent" Choices for Hens

Read.

Did you know one hen can lay almost 260 eggs a year? Hens are most often raised on farms. There are several **humane** ways to take care of hens as they lay eggs.

One kind of hen housing is called an **enriched colony house**. A small flock of hens live together here. They have room to sit and stand. They can turn around and lift their wings. These hens also have a nest box for laying eggs, a scratching area, and perches. These hens have room to be hens!

A second type of housing is called **cage-free**. Hens that live here can move around. They also have perches, nest boxes, and places to peck and scratch. Some cage-free farmers let their hens go outdoors during the day.

A third type of housing is called **free-range**. It is sometimes called a **pasture system** too. Here, hens can go outside during the day. They lay their eggs indoors in nest boxes in the barn where they go at night or if the weather gets bad.

Bonus: If you were a farmer who raised hens for eggs, which housing would you choose? Why? Write your answer on the back of this paper.

Answer the questions.

1. Where do hens lay eggs? _____

2. What kind of housing has hens outdoors in the daytime?_____

3. Name three things that hens like to do. _____

_____

_____

4. Based on what you already know and what you read, what do you think **humane** means?_____

_____

_____

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"'Egg-cellent' Choices for Hens"
Answer Key

1. in a nest box
2. free-range housing
3. Answers may include peck, scratch, move around, and perch.
4. being kind or gentle to animals or people

Bonus: Answers will vary.

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