

# How a caged hen feels



Did you know that about 18million chickens live their lives in cages? How does this make you feel?

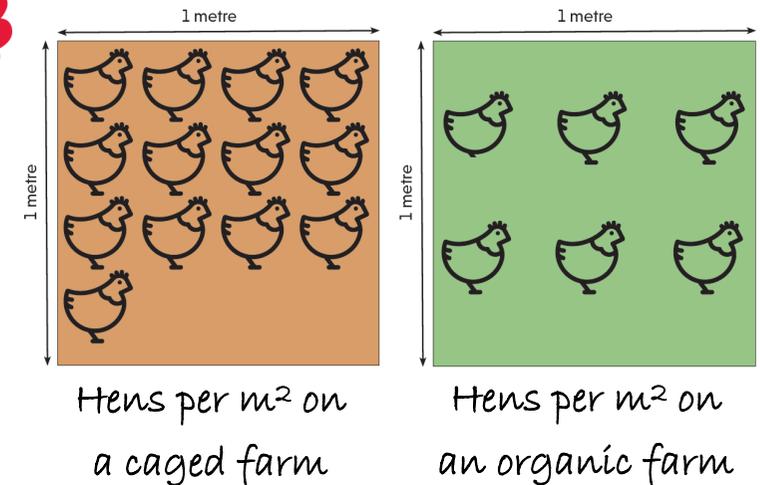
## Notes for teachers/ parents:

In the UK, it is legal to keep egg-laying hens in four different systems:

**organic, free-range, barn and enriched cages.**

In 2012, battery cages were banned in the UK and rest of the EU. Instead of being banned outright, enriched cages replaced battery cages. Enriched cages do give hens more space, and allow hens to carry out natural behaviours such as perching and scratching. However, with 60-80 hens per cage, these hens still don't have enough room to flap their wings (each hen space approximately the same size as a piece of A4 paper plus a postcard). Hens never leave their cages and will never get to see the sun or feel grass underfoot. All they can do is eat, sleep and lay eggs. Some hens get so bored they peck out other hens' feathers.

Hens on free-range and organic farms get to spend their days outdoors and sleep in a barn at night, where there must be a maximum of 6 hens per m<sup>2</sup>. These hens get to sit in the sun, scratch for bugs and have space to flap their wings.



## Your task:

Using the attached worksheet, draw or write about how you have found lockdown and how it has made you feel.

You will need:

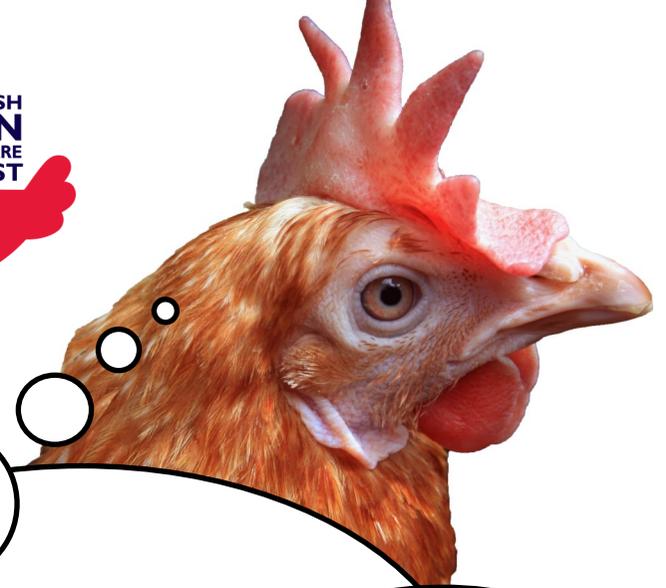
- BHWT How a caged hen feels worksheet
- Pens or pencils

## Taking this further:

Create a mind map or poster explaining how you and your family can help hens. Maybe buy only free-range eggs? Rehome some hens? How many ideas can you think of?

Time how long you can stay stood in a space 50cmX50cm. The time stops as soon as you step out of the space.

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**How have you felt during lockdown?**

**Write or draw in the hen's thought bubble how you have felt over the past few weeks.**

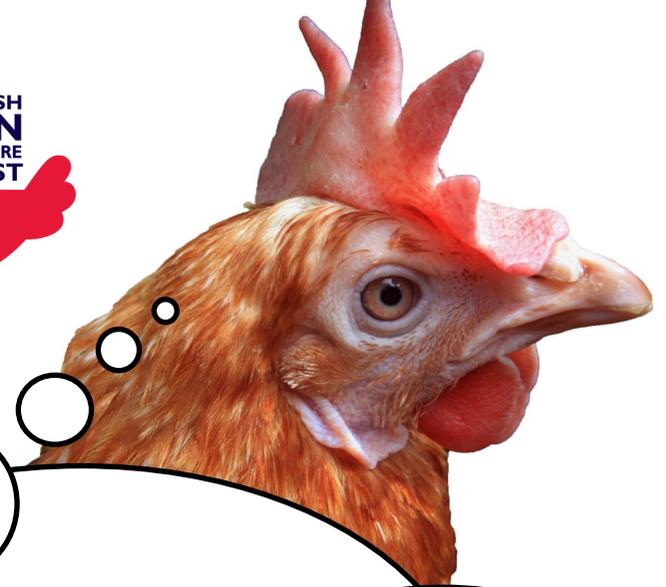
**Bored? Scared?**

**Cooped up?**

**Now think about how a caged hen feels.**

**Hens live in a cage for 18 months (a year and a half). Can you imagine being cooped up inside for 18 months?**

# How a caged hen feels



**How have you felt during lockdown?**

**Write or draw in the hen's thought bubble how you have felt over the past few weeks.**

**Bored? Scared?**

**Cooped up?**

A large, white, cloud-shaped thought bubble with a black outline. Inside the bubble are ten horizontal black lines for writing. The bubble is connected to the hen's head by a line that passes through a small circle.

**Now think about how a caged hen feels.**

**Hens live in a cage for 18 months (a year and a half). Can you imagine being cooped up inside for 18 months?**