

Candling Eggs

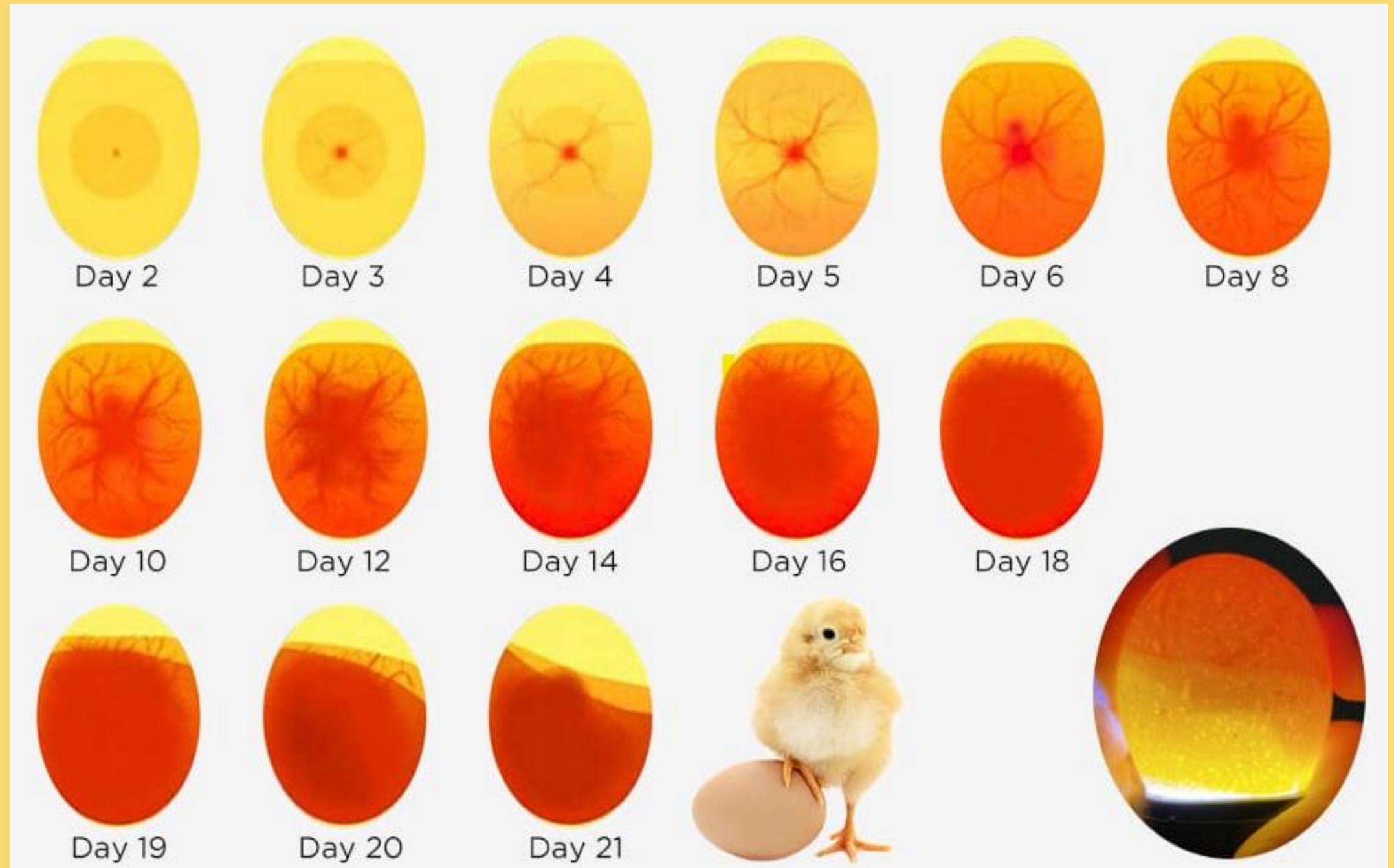
Did you know that you can see into an egg before it hatches without breaking it open?

Candling is a simple and effective way to show that there is life inside the egg. In a dark room, shining a bright light through the shell of a fertile egg will silhouette the developing embryo, showing the outline of blood vessels, details of the chick's body, and the air cell.

The inside of the egg will change as the chick grows and prepares to hatch. The air cell grows larger, the blood vessels join the chick's body and eventually disappear.

The movement that begins around day nine will begin to slow down around day 18 when the chick becomes so large inside the egg that there is no longer room for it to move around.

Around day 20, as the chick prepares to hatch, you will be able to hear chirps from inside the egg. If you candle at this point, you will be able to see the chick's head poking up into the air cell. This indicates that the chick is preparing to hatch.



Early Stages (Days 4-7): You should see veins spreading out from a central point, and possibly a small dark spot, which is the developing embryo.

Mid Stages (Days 8-14): The embryo should be larger, and you may see it moving inside the egg. The veins will be more pronounced.

Late Stages (Days 15-21): The egg will appear mostly dark as the chick grows, with a clear air cell visible at the larger end. Movement might still be visible, and the embryo will occupy most of the egg.

Candling the eggs gently will not affect embryo development. Only remove the eggs from the incubator a few times during incubation. To maintain a safe internal temperature, only keep the eggs outside of the incubator for a few minutes.