

Birds

NATURE'S CREATOR OF EGGS

- The oval (ovoid) shape of eggs makes them very strong. Even though the shell is made of a fragile material, an egg's curved shape means that any force is spread out evenly across the entire egg.
- Each bird lays eggs strong enough to support its own weight. Birds sit on their eggs to incubate them with the eggs resting vertically, like eggs in an egg box. This is because eggs are strongest at each end. If you squeeze the top and bottom of an egg, it's much harder to break than across the middle.
- Egg shells are covered in up to 17,000 tiny pores (holes) which let air into the shell for the embryo inside to breathe.
- As a chick develops inside the egg, it absorbs the calcium from the shell. This means the shell gets thinner and so easier for the chick to break through when it's time to hatch.
- A chick also uses the shell's calcium to create a jagged tip on its beak to make breaking free even easier.

