A hen is born with many tiny yolks in her **OVARY**. One at a time, these grow to full size.

When full size, the yolk is ovulated then picked up by the **INFUNDIBULUM**, a long funnel shaped tube which is the first portion of the **oviduct**.

As the yolk moves through the **mAGNUM**, the second section of the **oviduct**, a thick white layer of albumen - known as egg white - develops.

In the **isthmus**, the shell membrane is formed.

In the **shell gland**, calcium deposits attach to the shell membrane, forming interconnected calcium columns. Tiny holes left in the shell are called pores. At the end of this process, the shell receives its pigment or color, depending upon the hen's breed, and is covered with a protective coating, called bloom.

The egg is laid through the **vent**-located under the hen's tail.

The process starts all over again. Typically, a hen lays an egg every day or about every 24 – 26 hours.