Name _____ Date _____

HATCHING CHICKS

"Dad, look! Lucky has a nest!" Amy said.

Lucky was their black hen. She was sitting on ten brown eggs. "Lucky is broody," Amy's father said. "That means she is waiting for baby chicks."

"Will she sit there until they hatch?" Amy asked.

"We will see," her father said. "Come in the house now. We don't want to scare her," he said. "Chickens always pick a quiet place for a nest. If we bother her, she might go somewhere else."

Amy was curious about the eggs. "Does the hen keep them warm with her feathers?"

"Not really," her father said. "Her chest feathers fall out, and she keeps them warm with her skin. Her feathers grow back later when she is done."

"Why don't the eggs get too hot or too cold?" Amy asked.

"A hen knows how to keep them at just the right temperature," her father said.

They waited and waited. After three weeks, the eggs finally hatched. First one chick hatched. Then another and another until all the eggs hatched. "It's cute how they use their beaks to peck out of the eggs," Amy said.

Amy and Lucky both looked at the new baby chicks. They were small and yellow and soft.

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Answer the questions about *HATCHING CHICKS*

1. What do you call a hen that is hatching chicks?
    a. Hatchy
    b. Patient
    c. Broody
    d. Pregnant

2. Why is it bad to bother a setting hen?
    a. She might accidentally break her eggs.
    b. She might peck you.
    c. She might abandon her nest.
    d. None of the above

3. How many eggs are in the hen's nest in the story?
    a. Three
    b. Five
    c. Ten
    d. We can't tell from the story.

4. How does the hen keep the eggs warm?
    a. With a thick layer of body fat
    b. With her feathers
    c. With her skin
    d. With downy nest hair

5. How do chicks get out of the eggs when they hatch?
    a. They peck out with their beaks.
    b. They break the shells with their powerful feet.
    c. They make holes in the shells with their heads.
    d. The hen cracks the eggs by sitting on them.

Name _____ Date _____

1. Answers for *HATCHING CHICKS*

1. c
2. c
3. d
4. c
5. a