Compare and Contrast

Use the Venn Diagram that follows to list how these version of chickens are different and the same.
Margaret (Marge) Ponce Israel
Born 1928, Havana, Cuba
Died 1987, New York, New York
*Chickens*, 1978
Lithograph
Gift of Gilbert E. Johnson, 2017.81

Israel lived and worked in a three-story building in Manhattan, New York that was once a horse stable. Her menagerie included a bantam rooster, guinea hens, doves, a rabbit, dogs, and a cat. These creatures were featured in a posthumous exhibition of her work called *A Domestic Bestiary* in 1997-1998. The artist’s colorful palette for her chickens (*Gallus gallus domesticus*) can be connected to her Cuban origins.
Angelo C. Garzio
Born 1922, Mirabello Sannitico, Campobasso, Italy
Died 2008, Manhattan, Kansas
Pitcher, second half of 20th century
Glazed stoneware
Gift of the estate of Angelo Garzio, 2014.164

Garzio taught ceramics at Kansas State University beginning in 1957 and had a tree farm outside of Manhattan. Many of his ceramic works feature stylized animals. In addition to the rooster featured here, the artist often depicted fish and bulls.

George M. Kren
Angelo Garzio (ceramics professor, Kansas State University), on his farm, near Riley, Kansas, November 27, 1980, printed 2011
Inkjet print on paper
KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Margo Kren, 2016.94
More animal pots by Garzio from the BMA collection.
Chickens have great memories and can recognize over 100 faces. They can even recognize different animals. Chickens also remember places and different members of their flock, even after months apart.

Chickens gave us the term ‘pecking order’ as they operate with strict hierarchy, with the top chickens laying down the law by bullying and literally pecking the weaker chickens. The good news is the pecking order is established early in a chicken’s life when raised in a flock and the birds live in relative harmony.

Baby chickens are chicks. Female chickens are pullets until they’re old enough to lay eggs and become hens. Male chickens are called roosters, cocks or cockerels, depending on the country you’re in.
Chickens, like humans and other mammals, have a REM (rapid eye movement) phase of sleeping, which signifies dreaming. However, they also have another sleep phase that humans lack, called USWS (unihemispheric slow-wave sleep), where one half of the brain is sleeping while the other half is awake. Chickens can literally sleep with one eye open, an evolutionary adaptation that lets them watch for predators while they slumber.

Egg color is determined by genetics: A hen’s breed indicates what color egg she will produce. For example, Leghorn chickens lay white eggs while Orpington’s lay brown eggs and Ameraucanas produce blue eggs. Typically a chicken’s egg color can be determined by its earlobe color.
Chickens evolved from dinosaurs and are the closest living relative to the Tyrannosaurus Rex. One lineage of dinosaurs – the birds – survived the mass extinction 65 million years ago, so chickens (and all birds) are actual dinosaurs. However, chickens are definitely the most primitive and ‘dinosaur-like’ of our modern birds.

Velociraptor on the left, chicken on the right
There are dozens of chicken breeds, such as the Dutch Bantam, Leghorn and Rhode Island Red.
At one time, the eerie hollow moaning of male prairie-chickens displaying on their spring "booming grounds" was a common sound across much of central and eastern North America. Today the prairie-chickens are quite uncommon and localized; the race on the Atlantic seaboard, called the Heath Hen, became extinct in 1932. Greater Prairie-Chickens still thrive on a few areas of native grassland in the Midwest, including the Konza Prairie near Manhattan.

The low booming of displaying males is made by air passing through the syrinx and amplified by the inflating air sacs, which are extensions of the esophagus. Displaying males also give cluck, whoop, whine, and cackle. Displaying males rapidly stamp their feet, shake their wings, and fan their tails quickly.
Learn more about chickens
Additional Chickens from the Beach Museum of Art

Lester Wilton Raymer

*Hen & Rooster*, ca. 1950

Glazed earthenware with polychrome wood KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Carol & Jerry Exline, 1996.70 & 71
Lester Wilton Raymer

*Chanticleer*, 20th century
Woodcut on paper
KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of C.E. Denman, 2008.493

*Rooster*, ca. 1950
Glazed earthenware
KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Inez Exline, 2000.184
Chickens are omnivores. Many people think chickens are vegetarians, but besides eating seeds, grass, and grain, they will catch and eat insects, lizards, toads, and even field mice.

Janet Turner
*Chickens*, mid 20th century
Color linoleum cut on paper
KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Jim and Virginia Moffett, 2003.97

Bernard Joseph Steffen
*Inspection*, 1945
Color screenprint on paper
KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of John, Susan, and Johnny Watt, in memory of Sarah Katherine Watt, 2015.10
Mabel Dwight
*Farmyard*, published 1947
Lithograph on paper
KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Steven Schmidt, Salina, Kansas, 1996.8

Herschel C. Logan
*Feeding Time*, 1923
Woodcut on paper
KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Peggy L. Sondergard & Samuel H. Logan, 2002.8
Nora Othic
*Red Bull, White Chickens*, 2006
Pastel on paper
KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, acquisition made possible by funds provided by the Friends of the Beach Museum of Art, 2006.88

Charles Leroy Marshall Sr.
*Chuck's Chickens*, 1944
Watercolor on paper
KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Charles L. Marshall, Jr., 2011.96
E. J. Detmold
*Untitled (rooster)*, 1901
Etching on paper
KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Dr. Martha Morrison Kramer, 1970.22

Emma Lewis (Acoma Pueblo)
*Rooster plate*, 20th century
Earthenware with pigment
KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of the Estate of Lolafaye Coyne, 2015.48
Picture Books

- Interrupting Chicken by David Ezra Stein
- Chicken Man by Michelle Edwards
- Sonya's Chickens by Phoebe Wahl
- Blue Chicken by Deborah Freedman
Two classics
Art Projects

A paper plate folded in half makes a great chicken body. How you add details is up to you. Here are some from the internet.
To make your own pom poms, wrap yarn around your fingers or a piece of cardboard. Tie a tight knot around the middle and cut the ends. Fluff! Instant baby chick parts.

A Rooster made out of hands!
These Mexican and New Mexican folk art chickens are carved from wood. But you can make one from clay and paint it. Or you can do cardboard silhouettes. They are based on the colorful Rooster you see to the right.

El Gallo is rooster in Spanish.
Some chickens made by the Herb family of artists in New Mexico.
Peter Carl Fabergé's jeweled masterpieces were designed for the Russian tsars to give to their wives and mothers – a royal riff on the Easter egg. You can use Styrofoam eggs, ribbons and beads added with straight pins or glued on to make your own.

If you want a real challenge try making these Ukrainian (Psyanka) and Romanian (oua incondeiate) eggs.

Use wooden eggs, draw your design in pencil, and then use a sharpie marker so you have better control. You can paint it with gloss afterwards so that it is shiny.