Candling eggs is like a "sonogram" for baby chickens. After a few days in the incubator you should "candle" your eggs to see if they are developing correctly [or at all].

Things to note

Darker Shells [Marans especially] are harder to candle. You might have to rely on weight of eggs. If you aren't sure, leave them in the incubator.

Purchasing an egg candle will give you the best results, but a bright flashlight and a cupped fist can also work. Make sure you are in a very dark room.

DO NOT keep eggs exposed to the air for long. (leave the incubator lid partially on while candling).

Enjoy the process!

Non Fertile Egg
[If you see this on Day 7, discard the egg.
*Days 1-3 the egg will look like this.]

Ring of Death
If your egg has a red vein that goes around the whole egg, the development has stopped. Discard the egg.

candling schedule

**Day 7**
At this point in development you should see veins and a dark black spot inside the egg. The dark spot is the chickens eye.

Discard all eggs that do not have veins.

**Day 14**
Most of the egg will be filled with a developing chick. You can detect movement inside.

Discard all eggs that have stopped developing.

**Day 18**
All of the egg should now be filled with the developing chick. You should only see light in the air sac.

Carefully place in lockdown.