

Raising Mealworms

WHAT YOU NEED



**widemouthed
jar**



**mealworm
beetle larva**



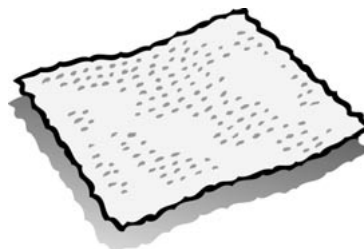
oatmeal



apple slice



rubber band



cheesecloth

Find Out

Do this activity to see the life cycle stages of mealworms.

Process Skills

Observing
Communicating
Predicting

Time

- 30 minutes to get started
- 5–10 minutes every day for three weeks



WHAT TO DO

1. In a clean, dry jar, place a layer of oatmeal.
2. Add an apple slice to the jar.
3. Add some mealworms to the jar. Cover the jar with the cheesecloth and secure it with the rubber band.
4. **Observe** the mealworms and **draw** how they look.
5. Based on what you have learned about insects, **predict** how the mealworms will change over the next few weeks.
6. Place the jar in a safe place in the classroom out of direct sunlight.
7. **Observe** the mealworms every day. **Record** what you see.



Date	How the Mealworms Look

Conclusions

1. How did the mealworms change?

2. What did the mealworms do differently at different times of their lives?

New Questions

1. What changes do you think you might see if you continue to watch the insects?

2. Write a new question you have about animal life cycles.



Name _____



ACTIVITY

Modeling Insects and Spiders

List the parts of an insect's body. **List** the parts of a spider.

Insects	Spiders

Name _____

What Happened

① How are your insect model and spider model alike?

② How are they different?

What If

How would insects and spiders be different if they had only two legs?

Name _____



ACTIVITY

Modeling Butterfly Life Cycles

Draw a caterpillar.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a caterpillar. In the bottom right corner of the box, there is a small icon of a pencil.

Draw a chrysalis.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a chrysalis. In the bottom right corner of the box, there is a small icon of a pencil.

Draw a butterfly.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a butterfly. In the bottom right corner of the box, there is a small icon of a pencil.

Name _____

What Happened

- ① How are the caterpillar and chrysalis alike?
How are they different?

- ② How are the caterpillar and butterfly alike?
How are they different?

What If

Suppose you observed both a butterfly and a caterpillar. Compare how they move from place to place.

Name _____



ACTIVITY

Investigating Fingerprints

Draw a picture of what you **predict** your fingerprint will look like.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a predicted fingerprint. In the bottom right corner of the box, there is a small, detailed illustration of a fingerprint.

Draw a picture of what your fingerprint looked like.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing an actual fingerprint. In the bottom right corner of the box, there is a small, detailed illustration of a fingerprint.

Name _____

What Happened

① Did your fingerprints look the same?

② How were your fingerprints different from your classmates' fingerprints?

What If

What would happen if you made your fingerprint on the same piece of tape as someone else?
