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Mealworm

Life Cycle
What is in an egg?
Mealworms hatch from an egg.

Mealworms are called **LARVAE**.
A mealworm grows a hard shell around it.

The shell is called a PUPA.
The PUPA turns into a beetle.
The beetle lays eggs.

Mealworms hatch from an egg.
Mealworms need food to live.

Mealworms eat cereal.
Mealworms need water to live.

Water is in sweet potatoes.
Mealworms need space.

Mealworms live in a bowl.
Mealworm Life cycle

How many days was mealworm? ____________

How many days was beetle? ____________

How many days was pupa? ____________
Directions

1. put name on bowl
2. Put cereal in bowl
3. Put sweet potato in bowl
4. Put cover on bowl
5. Poke hole in cover

6. Mark your calendar.
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pupa pupa pupa pupa pupa pupa pupa pupa pupa pupa pupa pupa
How do bugs change?
What do bugs need to live?
water  air  food  space
Life Science
Mealworm Investigation

LS 1.3.1 Recognize the life stages of common organisms

A Science Investigation includes 4 components:
- Observing/questioning
- Planning
- Conducting
- Analyzing

OBSERVING/QUESTIONING
Ideas on how students may be involved in the observing/questioning component of the science investigation:
- Read a book about mealworms and have a discussion on living insects. Students will be told about the insects that will be coming in the classroom. The discussion can include suggestions for handling live insects with respect. Students may be given two mealworms in a cup to observe. If students want to hold the worms, they should be able to. Students may also observe the worms on a plate with a hand lens. Worms may be gently shaken and observed.
- Students who benefit from picture cards can be cued to the concepts: Observe, mealworm, plate, hand lens/magnifying glass, move
- Make a prediction about what mealworms need to stay alive. (water, air, water, space)
- Make predictions about how long it will take the mealworm to change into a beetle.
- Make predictions about what the mealworm will change into.

PLANNING
Ideas on how students may be involved in planning the science investigation:
- Collect and put on the LAB coats.
- Based on predictions, identify the things needed for the experiment (food, space, etc.).
- Identify the tools needed to collect the things (sweet potato, cereal, jars, name labels, pushpin to make air hole in cover).
- Identify the data chart (tool) needed for the experiment. (calendar)

CONDUCTING
Ideas on how students may be involved in conducting the science investigation:
- Use a step process to conduct the experiment such as
  1. label container
  2. put in cereal
  3. put in sweet potato
  4. put on top
  5. poke air holes
  6. daily: mark calendar as to the status of the bug.

FYI: egg: 7-14 days; larva: 30-90 days; pupa: 10-20 days; adult: 5-10 days
ANALYZING

- Check your predictions
- Summarize using a lab report
- Discuss what you found
- Count the days for each stage of the life cycle of meal worm
- Discuss whether the mealworm used the food, space, water, air