

Lesson Plan by: Leanne Rakestraw

Lesson: What stages do insects go through?

Length: 30 minutes

Age/Grade: 4th Grade

Academic Standard:

4.4.6 Explain how in all environments, organisms are growing, dying, and decaying, and new organisms are being produced by old ones

Performance Objective:

Given a chart, students will record any changes the mealworm makes over a period of time.

Assessment:

Students will turn in their observation charts. If they have drawn or written observations about changes in appearance and behavior, and those observations are correct, they will have completed the assignment right.

Advanced Preparation by Teacher: Jars with covers (clear plastic if possible), mealworms, bran or other cereal flakes, magnifying lenses, spoons, pictures of people and insects at different growing stages

Procedure:

Introduction/Motivation:

1. Engage the students by asking:
 - a. What are the stages people go through as they grow and change?
 - b. Do insects, like mealworms, go through stages too?
 - i. How could we find out?

Step-by-Step Plan:

1. Give each student a jar
 - a. Have them put bran or cereal flakes into a jar with a lid
 - b. Have them put mealworms into their jar
 - c. Punch holes in the lid for air
2. Encourage the students to observe their mealworms several times per week
 - a. Have them record any changes in their:
 - i. Color
 - ii. Length
 - iii. Behavior
 - iv. Any other noticeable changes

Closure:

1. Show students pictures of people and insects at different stages of growth
 - a. Discuss how these living things grow
2. Help students make a chart comparing the stages of humans and insects

Adaptations/Enrichments:

Adaptations: Put students in groups and have them observe their mealworms together.

Enrichment: Have students compare the stages of other animals (amphibians, reptiles, birds).

Self-Reflection: Done after the lesson. What went well and what can be improved.

Adapted from:

Carin, Arthur A. "What Stages Do Insects Go Through?" Activities for Teaching Science as Inquiry. Pearson. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. 2005:169-170.