

Mealworms and Butterflies

The kindergarten students have been learning about the life cycles of insects. When they are finished, the class is going to release their butterflies but keep the mealworms. It's your job to help them answer these questions.

- How does the life cycle of the mealworm compare to that of the butterfly?
- What can they feed their mealworms to keep them alive in the classroom?

Question/Task #1:

Use what you've learned about mealworms to show the stages in the life cycle of the mealworm. Fill in each section of the life cycle wheel with a diagram and a label from the word box.

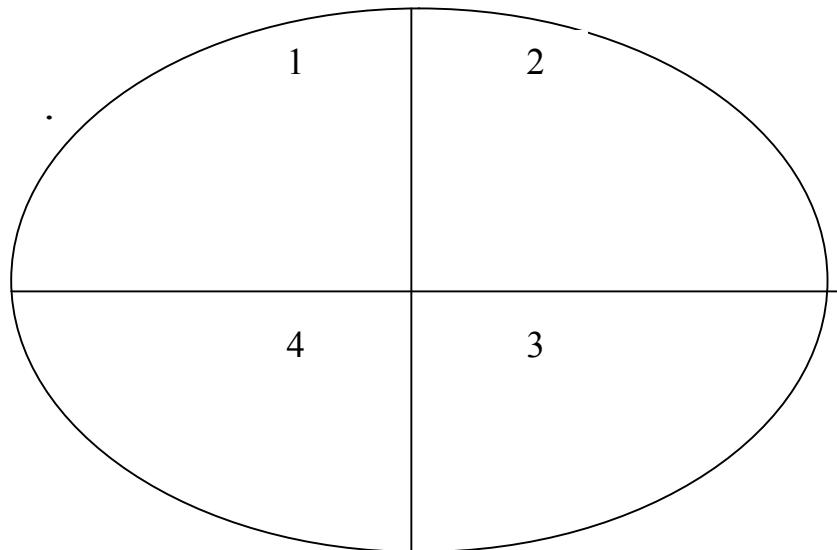
Materials needed:

Pencil

Word Box

Pupa	Adult	Egg	Larva
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Mealworm Life Cycle



Question/Task #2:

Name two ways that the life cycle of the butterfly and the mealworm are the same.

1. _____

2. _____

Question/Task #3:

Which food do mealworms prefer: apples or potatoes? You will work with a partner to do an experiment which will answer this question.

Predict what food your mealworm will prefer.

Prediction: _____

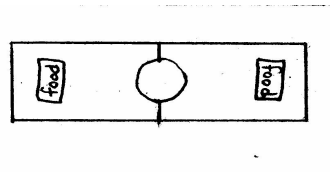
Explain why: _____

Question/Task :#4

Observe your mealworm in action, and record the data on the data sheet.

Materials per group:

- 5 active mealworms
- Similar size pieces of potato and apple
- Shoebox
- Pencil



Procedure: Each pair of students will:

1. Take a shoebox with the above outline.
1. Put apple and potato in designated places.

2. Place 5 mealworms in the circle.
3. After 5 minutes, record how many mealworms are on each side of the placemat.
4. Record the number on the data sheet provided.
5. Repeat steps 3, 4, and 5 for three more trials.
6. Record the totals under each column.

MEALWORM FOOD CHOICES

	APPLE (number of mealworms)	POTATO (number of mealworms)
Trial 1		
Trial 2		
Trial 3		
Trial 4		
Total		

Question\Task #5

Refer back to your prediction in task #3. Tell which food you thought the mealworm would prefer.

Circle the food. Apple Potato

Does your data support your prediction? _____

Explain: _____

Task #6

What were two things that were kept the same during the trials that made this a fair test?

1 _____

2 _____