

Mealworm Habitat

Science: Life Science



DIY Project of the month May

Procedures

1. Go to your local pet store and buy a super worm (mealworm). They are very cheap and a lot of fun. .
2. The mealworm is somewhat harmless so take it out and place it into a plastic cup. The plastic cup is very slippery and it will be unable to climb out. When you feel brave pour the super worm onto your hand. They do have strong, pointy legs that can give you a good squeeze. What does it feel like? What is it doing?
3. Take your magnifying glass and begin to make your observations. Record how many body parts, legs, eyes, and antennas it has.
4. Do you know what type of animal group it belongs to? Is it a mammal? Reptile? Insect?
5. It is now time to make a habitat for your new found pet. Find an empty plastic soup container or Tupperware and cover the entire bottom with dry oats. This will be food for your super worm.
6. Remember, all living things need water, food, and air. Ask an adult to cut you an apple wedge without the peel and place this on top of the dry oats. Your super worm will drink the sugar water out of the apple. Remember to replace your apple wedge when it appears to be dry.
7. Cover the top of your container with some aluminum foil so that your super worm cannot escape. Take a toothpick and punch out 20 small holes so that you are able to introduce air into your habitat.
8. Make sure to observe your superworm on a daily basis until you notice a change. The change should take place in approximately 2-3 weeks. Once the change begins, it will be fun to draw what it looks like. What happened to your super worm?
9. This is a metamorphosis. It changed from a super worm into a beetle. This is the magic of science!

Materials

Paper , Penci , super-worm , cup , dry oats , apple , Magnifying glass , aluminum foil , toothpick