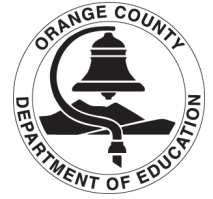




# Insect Life Cycles Classroom Activity



## SYNOPSIS

Students will grow insects to learn about the stages of the insect life cycle.

## OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- describe each stage in the life cycle of a mealworm beetle
- state how many stages are in the life cycle of a mealworm beetle

## VOCABULARY/CONCEPTS

- insect life cycle

## MATERIALS

- jars with lids
- oatmeal
- mealworm larvae (can be purchased at pet stores)
- apple pieces

## PROCEDURE

1. Punch several holes in jar lids for ventilation.
2. Fill the jars with several inches of oatmeal and a small section of apple.
3. Place the mealworms in the jar.
4. As time passes, add more oatmeal and remove dead insects and rotting apple if necessary.
5. Have the students check the development of insects daily.
6. The mealworms will live in this container for several weeks, eventually some will metamorphosize to pupa and then adults. The adults mate and lay eggs in the oatmeal. Eggs are difficult to see.
7. In a journal, they can create a diagram showing how their insects are progressing through the stages of the life cycle.

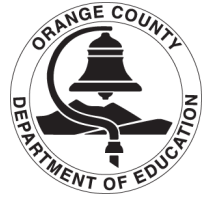
## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

The following questions may help guide discussion:

- What does the mealworm need to survive?
- How are the mealworms similar to the adult beetles? How are they different?
- What is the insect's behavior at each stage?
- How does an insect grow larger or change from one stage to another?
- What is the duration of each stage?
- How long is the complete life cycle?



## Insect Life Cycles Classroom Activity(cont.)



### EXTENSIONS/NGSS CONNECTIONS

This activity could be used to focus on the following standards for the following grades.

- Kindergarten - K-LS1-1. Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.
- First Grade - 1-LS3-1. Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents.
- Third Grade - 3-LS1-1. Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.
- Fifth Grade - 5-LS2-1. Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.