

# Monitor Mealworms

## Procedure

- 1. Collaborate** Work with a partner. Carefully use a pushpin to make air holes in the lid of a plastic container. Place a thin layer of oatmeal in the container. **Safety:** Be careful. Pushpins are sharp.
- 2.** Use a plastic spoon to put mealworms gently in the container. Close the lid. **Safety:** Do not touch the mealworms.
- 3. Record Data** Look closely at the mealworms with a hand lens. Record your observations and draw a sketch of the mealworms in the chart below.
- 4.** Add oatmeal as necessary. Repeat step 3 once a week for two months. Record all your observations.

Time	Observations	Sketches
Week 0		
Week 1		
Week 2		
Week 3		
Week 4		
Week 5		
Week 6		
Week 7		
Week 8		

## Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions below.

1. **Analyze Data** A mealworm is actually one of the stages in the life cycle of a darkling beetle. What different stages of the life cycle have you observed? What stage do you think comes next?

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2. **Communicate** Exchange observations with another team. Do your team's sketches and observations differ from the other team's sketches and observations? Discuss why this might be so.

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## Investigate More!

**Research** Use the library or Internet to learn more about the life cycle of mealworms. Find out where they live and what they eat. Make a poster to display your findings.