

A Mealworm Home

Procedure

- 1. Collaborate** Work with a partner. Use black construction paper to cover the outside of a plastic jar.
- 2.** Cut a square of black paper that is slightly larger than the opening of the jar. Position the square over the opening of the jar. Leaving a space, tape the square in place.
- 3.** Use an index card to lift a mealworm and place it in an uncovered plastic jar. **Safety:** Handle the mealworms gently.
- 4. Observe** With your partner, use masking tape to join together the openings of the two jars. Place the joined jars on their side in a well-lit area.
- 5. Record Data** Every 10 minutes for the next half hour, observe and record the location of the mealworm. When you are finished, have your teacher return the mealworm to a suitable environment.

Mealworm Location	
Time	Location
0 minutes	
10 minutes	
20 minutes	
30 minutes	

Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions below.

1. **Predict** Suppose in step 4 you put the mealworm home in a dark place. How do you think this would affect the mealworm's movements?

2. **Infer** Based on your observations, what can you conclude about the type of environment a mealworm prefers?

Investigate More!

Design an Experiment How would the mealworm move if it was placed in the covered jar first? Plan an experiment to find out. Then get your teacher's permission to carry it out.

