Competition

Procedure

1. **Use Variables** Your teacher will set up four model ecosystems. Each ecosystem is represented by a plate covered with a sheet of paper. Some plates contain many pretzels, some contain few pretzels, and some contain no pretzels.

2. **Use Models** Stand in the center of the room. When your teacher says “Go,” choose an ecosystem and walk to it. **Safety:** Do not run or push others.

3. Peek under the paper. If there is a pretzel, take the pretzel and stand by the ecosystem. If there are no pretzels, move on to another ecosystem.

4. Repeat step 3 until you find a pretzel.

5. **Communicate** When every student has found a pretzel, make a bar graph in the space below. The graph should show how many ecosystems each student visited before finding food.

![Ecosystems Visited Before Finding Food Graph](image)
Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions below.

1. **Analyze Data** Which ecosystem held the greatest number of pretzels? The least?

   [Blank space for answer]

   [Blank space for answer]

2. **Predict** How might an organism be affected if the food in its ecosystem were eaten by other organisms?

   [Blank space for answer]

   [Blank space for answer]

**Investigate More!**

**Solve a Problem** Take away several pretzels, then repeat the activity. Think of ways that each student could still get some food. Share your ideas with your classmates.