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# 2nd Grade Activity: Ant Observation

*Animals like specific kinds of foods. Use the scientific method to understand what food ants like.*

*(NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas 2-LS1-C: Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms)*

## Pre-Activity Questions

- What kind of food do ants like to eat?
- Will ants eat anything?

## Activity

- Using the scientific method, create an experiment to discover what kinds of foods ants like to eat. Check out [this infographic](#) for a refresher on the scientific method.
- What is your hypothesis? What kinds of food will you use? What will you use as a control?
  - Hint: Try to use foods that are different. For example, honey, bread, and vegetables.
  - Water is an excellent control.

## Create your Own ...

### Materials

- At least 3 different kinds of food.
- Water
- Ant observation sheet
- Magnifying glass (optional)

### Steps

1. Select some **various foods**. For example, honey, bread, and vegetables.
2. Find some ants.
3. Place the different food types beside the ants with your control (**water**).
  - a. Make sure all items are the same distance from the line of ants.
  - b. Food/water can go directly on the ground. For easier cleanup, you can use a torn piece of scratch paper.
4. Check the food at 15-minute and 30-minute intervals and use the **Ant Observation Sheet** to document your observations.

## Post-Activity Questions and Activities

- How many ants are around each bit of food?
- What are they doing with the food?
- Which food was the ants favorite? Did this prove or disprove your hypothesis? Why do you think it was the ants favorite?
- Do you think there was anything that might have made the experiment biased?



# Ant Observation Sheet

Draw or write your observations in the boxes below.

## 10-minutes after food is placed

Control	Food A	Food B	Food C
# of ants:	# of ants:	# of ants:	# of ants:

## 30-minutes after food is placed

Control	Food A	Food B	Food C
# of ants:	# of ants:	# of ants:	# of ants:

## Conclusions:

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