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).
   - Make sure all items are the same distance from the line of ants.
   - 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>Food A</th>
<th>Food B</th>
<th>Food C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of ants:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 30-minutes after food is placed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>Food A</th>
<th>Food B</th>
<th>Food C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of ants:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Conclusions:

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