

3-5
years

pri-sci-net



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Science Content:

Life Science

Target Concepts/Skills:

Children are to investigate which food snails prefer to eat between lettuce, tomato and dried leaves.

Target Age group:

3-5 years

Duration of activity:

1 hr

Summary:

The children are presented with a story on a big book (this can also be presented in the form of a powerpoint or picture). The story is about a very hungry snail and how it was looking for food to eat. The children are presented with a problem – they have to help find food for the snail, for which they need to learn what they think snails like to eat. From the big book story, the children are presented with different foods and they are asked to predict which food they think that the snails prefer. The children then move on to the investigation. They have to test the snails' preferences by offering the food to a number of snails and observing which one the snails prefer. Following their observation, the children have to consider their evidence and determine the snails' preferred food.

Objective:

By the end of the activity children should be able to:

Design a simple investigation to find out what snails prefer to eat;
Draw conclusions from observations made, while being aware that the answer may not be clear cut;
Appreciate aspects of fair testing when designing investigations;

Resources:

number of snail who have ben placed in water so that they are 'awake';
different types of food (lettuce, tomatoes, grass, herbs etc.)
Large aquariums or cardboard boxes or other large containers where to place the snails;
Magnifying glass for children to study the snails;
Worksheets

What do snails like to eat?

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This project Pri-Sci-Net has received funding from the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7 2007 /13) under grant agreement No.266647



What do snails like to eat?

Lesson plan (with inclusion of teacher notes)

Description of activity

The teacher introduces the Big Book then relates the story of Slimy Snail. Prior to telling the story the children are asked to predict what the story is all about and what happens to the snail. For example:

- What do you think will happen to the snail in the beginning, and at the end of the story?
- Children are asked to look at book conventions and point to the title, author and type of book.
- What do you think is Slimy Snail's favourite food?

The Story

Slimy snail sets out early in the morning to search for food. Unfortunately when Slimy snail reaches a field full of lettuce, Mr. Tortoise warns him about the farmer who kills snails. Slimy Snail travels to other vegetable fields but all the animals warn him about the farmers who hate snails. When Slimy Snail was about to give up he hears a cry of help and notices that his friend Mr Caterpillar is captured by a bird. Slimy snail tickles the bird with his tentacles. The bird flies away and Mr. Caterpillar is free. Mr. Caterpillar invites Slimy snail for lunch to a plate of dried and rotten leaves.

The teacher tells children that they will go out to the school garden to look for snails and there find out what snails prefer to eat. If this is not possible you can get the snails yourself to make sure that you have enough. Put the snails in water so that they are awake and moving.

Investigating the snail in groups of 5 children

Resources (4 aquariums with snails), Magnifying glass

The class goes to search for snails. Children are grouped into groups of 5 children and each group gather three snails per group. They are encouraged to look closely at their snail with their magnifying glass. After observing the snail the teacher will ask the following questions:

- Why do you think the snail has a shell?
- How does the snail move?
- How many tentacles can you see?
- Which ones are the eyes?
- What are the others used for?
- What does it smell like?
- What does it feel like?
- What colour is the shell and the body?
- Can you see the mouth?

Prediction about the snail's favourite food- Filling up Prediction Worksheet

Worksheet : What do you think that the snails prefer to eat? Prior to filling up the worksheet the teacher makes a statement by saying "I wonder what snails like to eat" to encourage students to discuss the question. The teacher needs to ask the children why they think that the snails would prefer one food to another. Explain to the children how to fill the worksheet. The children need to tick the food that they think that snails prefer. They may tick one or more food.

Activity 4

Observing snails eating the lettuce, tomatoes and dried leaves.

Filling up worksheet - what did the snails eat?

4 aquariums or cardboard boxes with snails and food - Lettuce, tomatoes and dried leaves, Magnifying glass
Children observe the snails while they eat. Each group ticks the food / foods that the snails eat. Following the experiment children share and discuss their ideas about the snail's favourite food/foods

Conclusion-What have we learned about snails?

The teacher asks children what they have learned about the snails and the children together discuss what conclusions they can make. Ask the children if they would get a different or better answer if they used more or fewer snails.

What do snails like to eat?



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1. Engage (Forming hypotheses)

Children are to hypothesise on what type of food they believe that the snails prefer to eat. The main question of their investigation is: What do snails like to eat? The story is used to make the investigation meaningful.

2. Inquiry

The children are presented with the different types of food and asked to decide which food they believe that the snails prefer to eat. They then carry out the investigation where they try this out by giving snails the difference food and watch which ones they prefer to eat.

3. Evaluation

The children have to consider how many snails went to the different types of food and from that to conclude which food the snails tend to prefer and to what degree. This provides the children with the opportunity to realize that answers are not always clear cut and that they can only provide overall results and that they can never be 100% sure of what they conclude.

Materials in attachment:

Prediction sheet
Observation sheet

What do snails like to eat?



Name: _____

What do you think snails prefer to eat?

Tick the box next to the snail's food. You can tick more than one.

	 lettuce	
	 dried leaves	
	 tomato	


What do snails like to eat?



Group Name:

What do you think snails prefer to eat?

Tick the box next to the snail's food. You can tick more than one.

	 lettuce	
	 dried leaves	
	 tomato	