

Observing Ant Behavior

Name _____

Classroom _____

Purpose: These exercises will allow the students to use the steps of the scientific method by observing and experimenting with ants. The students will set up different food baits in a variety of habitats in subsequent lesson. They will observe the behavior of ants and to hypothesis and test to see what type of food the ants prefer.

Required background: students should be comfortable with the scientific method (i.e. formulation of hypothesis, accurate collection of data, analyze and organize data in tables and graphs, etc.)

Materials:

1. Spam (or other canned meat such as tuna; about the size of a dime)
2. Honey (about the size of a dime)
3. Peanut butter (about the size of a dime)
4. Toothpicks
5. Ant Bait information cards (provided below)
6. Zip-loc® bags

For the take-home assignment:

Ant Bait Information Card # _____

Name: _____

Classroom: _____

For the field assignment:

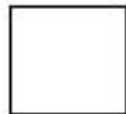
Ant Bait Information Card # _____

Name: _____

Classroom: _____



SPAM



HONEY



PEANUT BUTTER

Ant Bait Card Data Sheet (Field Assignment)**Directions:**

1. Take two index cards and put your names, classroom, and card #. Put about a dime-sized amount of spam, peanut butter, and honey in the labeled spaces. For example, the card should look like this:

Ms. Kim and Ms. Nori	SPAM	<input type="radio"/>
DB		
card #1	HONEY	<input type="radio"/>
	PEANUT	
	BUTTER	<input type="radio"/>

2. Place the cards carefully into separate Zip-loc® bags.
3. Select two different types of areas to put your ant bait card. For example, one in a shady area under a tree and the other in a sunny area over dirt.
4. Open the Zip-loc® bags and leave it out for ONE hour.
5. Answer questions #1 and #2 below
6. At the end of the hour, seal the Zip-loc® bag securely with the ants inside and bring them back into the classroom.
7. Answer the questions # 3 – 7 below.

Questions

1. Which foods do you predict ants will like best (this is your hypothesis)? Why?
2. Describe in detail where you placed your ant bait cards. For example, ant bait card was put in the shade, under a bush with a lot of leaves on it.

Ant bait card #1:

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Ant bait card #2:

- 3. How much of the different foods did the ants take?**

Ant bait card #1:

Ant bait card #2:

- 4. How many different types of ants do you see in your bag?**

Ant bait card #1:

Ant bait card #2:

- 5. How many ants total did you collect in each bag?**

Ant bait card #1:

Ant bait card #2:

- 6. Compare the two ant bait cards. Are there any differences between them?**

- 7. Was your food bait prediction correct (this is your conclusion)?**