Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Forensic Entomology Lab**

**Rationale:**

This activity allows students to observe an insect’s life cycle on decomposing flesh.

**Materials/equipment needed:**

Chicken or beef liver (cut up)

Plastic containers with ventilated lids

Magnifying glass or stereoscopic microscope with petri dish

Forceps

**Procedure:**

1. Label your container with your class period and group number.
2. Obtain a piece of liver and put it in the container. Do not put on the lid.
3. Place the container outdoors and move away so flies can “find the corpse” and lay eggs on it.
4. After at least 30 minutes, return to the area and retrieve your container.
5. Cover it with the ventilated lid and store it in an area free from excessive draft or cold temperatures.
6. Observe and record what you see with the “Crime Scene Sample.”
7. Observe and record the data of your container daily for two weeks.



|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Stage of Insect Found** | **Appearance and Condition of Corpse** | **Odor Detected** | **Other Characteristics (Location of insects, etc.)** |
| **1** |  |  |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |  |  |
| **3** |  |  |  |  |
| **4** |  |  |  |  |
| **5** |  |  |  |  |
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| **14** |  |  |  |  |

Crime Scene Sample Observation

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**DATA TABLE FOR “CORPSE” OBSERVATION**

1. Describe the observations that you expected to have with this activity. Anything unexpected?
2. What conditions could affect this data?
3. Approximately how many “days old” was the crime scene sample? How did you determine this?

**Forensic Entomology Lab Key**

1. Answers will vary
2. Temperature, rainy conditions, excessive wind, other predators in the area
3. To be determined by the teacher.