

Life in a Bottle

As in any ecosystem, the animals in the Kalahari rely on one another to survive. The balance between predator and prey is an important one. Observe your own predator-prey chambers to find out what happens when this balance is upset.

Materials

- four Food Chain Chambers

Procedure

1 Copy the chart for recording observations. Feel free to add other categories, such as a place to draw pictures of the animals.

2 Look closely at each one of your four Food Chain Chambers. Use the chart to record what is in or is missing from each chamber.

	Control Chamber 1 • spider ____ • fruit ____ • access for fruit flies ____	Chamber 2 • spider ____ • fruit ____ • access for fruit flies ____	Chamber 3 • spider ____ • fruit ____ • access for fruit flies ____	Chamber 4 • spider ____ • fruit ____ • access for fruit flies ____
Today's date ____ Describe each chamber				
Week 1: Prediction				
Week 1: Observation				
Week 2: Prediction				
Week 2: Observation				

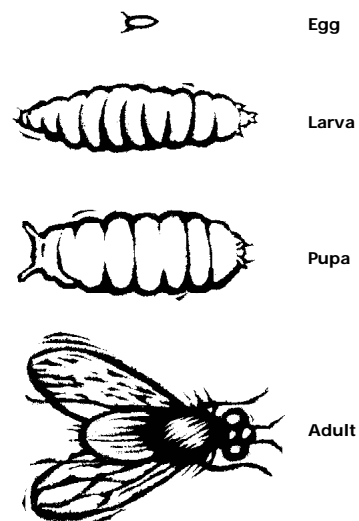


3 Place the chambers in an area likely to attract fruit flies. (Since fruit flies are attracted to decaying fruit, kitchens and compost piles are a good bet.) Once you trap a healthy population of adult fruit flies, the females will lay eggs on the fruit in the fruit fly area. Fruit flies develop from egg to adult in about two weeks. If you look closely you may be able to see eggs, small active larvae, and immobile pupae.

4 Each week describe what you observe in each chamber, and make predictions for the following week. Be sure to make predictions for everything in the chambers: the banana slices, the fruit flies, and the spider.

5 After the final week, describe what happened in each chamber and explain why you think it happened.

Life Cycle of the Fruit Fly



Note: not drawn to scale