



Pests and Threats

Project: Buggy Decomposition



This is a simple experiment to show how insects feed on and break down fruit. All you have to do is throw some pears in a jar and let the bugs do the work!



What you will need:



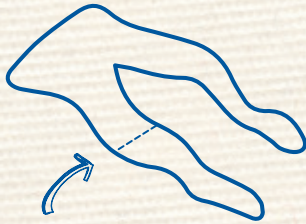
Pear



Elastic Band



3 jars with lids



Nylon Covering (eg. cut from a pair of tights)



Knife (to be used by an adult)



What To Do...

- 1 Cut a pear into three equal pieces and place each section into a jar. An adult will need to help you with this



- 2 Leave one jar uncovered, put a nylon covering over the second jar and attach it with an elastic band, and screw the lid tightly on the third



Top Tips:

“ Use a pair of old tights as your nylon covering! ”





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What to do...

- Put the jars outside in the same place. Observe the jars every day for a few weeks



Where do the insects gather?

The Result

- The fruit in the jar with no lid should rot the fastest. Insects, bacteria and fungus easily enter open jars and cause decay.
- The jar with the nylon covering should prevent most decay organisms from entering, so the fruit should not decay as quickly as it did in the open jar.
- The fruit in the jar with the lid on it should rot the slowest because the lid blocks decay organisms from coming in. However, because the fruit already has some organisms on it, it should still decay slowly.

Top Tips:

“ Watch the bugs at their work! ”

