

Lesson #12 Activity: Interactions Among Organisms (Students)

Student Instructions:

- Each person in your group represents a different species (Species A, Species B, and Species C), so each person gets a different card, with different instructions. Don't let anyone else see the instructions on your card, or they'll have a better chance of beating you!
- Put the bowl of Smarties in the center of your group, and give each group member a spoon. Use the spoon to collect Smarties—*only one at a time*. Leave your cup on the table, not in your hand. No cup guarding!
- At the end of the round, count how many Smarties you collected, fill out the table, and answer the related questions. Then, put all of your Smarties back into the community bowl for the next round.

Game 1

	Species A	Species B	Species C
Number of Smarties collected in the cup			
Did the species collect enough food to survive the winter?			

1. Which ecological relationship do:
 - a. Species A and Species B have? (parasitism / competition / none)
 - b. Species A and Species C have? (parasitism / competition / none)
 - c. Species B and Species C have? (parasitism / competition / none)
2. Why will two species not be able to occupy the same location in a community for very long?

Game 2

	Species A	Species B	Species C
Number of Smarties collected in the cup			
Did the species collect enough food to survive the winter?			

1. Which ecological relationship do:
 - a. Species A and Species B have? (parasitism / competition / none)
 - b. Species A and Species C have? (parasitism / competition / none)
 - c. Species B and Species C have? (parasitism / competition / none)

Game 3

	Species A	Species B	Species C
Number of Smarties collected in the cup			
Did the species collect enough food to survive the winter?			

1. Which ecological relationship do:
 - a. Species A and Species B have? (parasitism / competition / none)
 - b. Species A and Species C have? (parasitism / competition / none)
 - c. Species B and Species C have? (parasitism / competition / none)
- ii) What would happen if a new invasive species came into your ecosystem that ate blue, red, and orange Smarties and was better at collecting food than all three of your species?

Last Updated: AUGUST 2017

3. “All populations living together within a community interact with one another and with their environment in order to survive and maintain a balanced ecosystem.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?