

Lesson #12 Activity: Interactions Among Organisms (Teacher)

Adapted from:

http://ywp.wustl.edu/KitCurriculum/EcologicalInteractions/EcoEvo_Ecological%20Interactions%20Kit_TeacherHandout.pdf

NOTE: Students should be cautioned against eating the Smarties (never eat in the science lab/classroom). If Smarties are too tempting, consider using a non-edible alternative!

Teacher Instructions:

1. Put students in groups of 3. Each student is a different species (Species A, B and C).
2. Each group gets a bowl of Smarties and a set of cards. Each student gets a spoon, and cup.
 - a. The set of cards can be printed back to back, and cut out. Have students draw a card for each round (indicated on the face up side).
3. For each game, have students pick a card, and carefully read the instructions on their card about how they can survive the winter. Students should keep their instructions hidden from other group members.
4. Place the bowl of Smarties in the center of each group. Students will use a spoon to collect Smarties and place them into their cups. No stealing from other student's cups unless your instructions tell you to do so.
5. Time each game for 1 minute (or less). At the end of the game, students should record how many Smarties each species collected, then return the Smarties to the bowl and answer questions.
6. Discuss as a class.
7. Time permitting: For an added challenge, hand out one spoon, one fork and one craft stick to each group rather than a spoon for each student and redo each game.