

Populations

Running Time: 26 Minutes

Nifty questions in this episode:

- What are all living things (people, plants, insects, etc.) a part of?
- Do ants, plants, cows, spiders, sharks, and people depend on each other?
- What may happen when environments change?

Awesome answers:

- Populations.
- Yes!
- Populations may all die (lack of food, shelter).

Experiments shown on the video:

MULTIPLICITY

Objective: To understand how weeds proliferate.

- A weed seed will produce another seed (proliferation). Using a calculator, multiply two times two for day one.
- Multiply that answer by two for day two.
- Continue to multiply your answer by two daily for one week. What's your answer?
- Continue to do this for 10 weeks. Now what's your answer?
- Try this with pennies and keep doubling amount.


More interesting stuff to do:

PLANT POPULATIONS

Objective: To demonstrate how plant populations compete in environments for survival.

- Cut an empty two-liter plastic soda bottle in half by poking a hole and then cutting with scissors. Set the bottom half upright, resting on a tabletop. Fill with dirt and potting soil to 1" from the top.
- Poke your little finger 10-15 times into the top of soil just past your fingernail.
- Plant a variety of seeds (carrots, corn, sunflower, beans, beets, radish, wild flowers, etc.) in each hole and cover with dirt. Water and record growth.
- Observe the plants that compete and take over, and those that die. Explain your discoveries; are the plants competing in their environment?
- Place the other half of the bottle in a glass for support, with the neck down, and repeat the above experiment. Where do the roots go? Why?

Way Cool Scientist: Susan Millard

 closed-captioned



Disney Educational Productions

105 Terry Drive, Suite 120
Newtown, PA 18940-3425
1-800-295-5010



Funding provided
by The National
Science Foundation.