

LESSON 2 Key Questions

The hypothesis is included below. DEI is very interested in student responses to the hypothesis as outlined in Lesson 2. A worksheet is included in Lesson 2 materials that may be used for their predictions

- Where will we travel to place the clams once we have finished preparing them?

We will travel to a section of mud flats in the community that we have asked the town officials about using for our project

- Why will we put clam containers at upper, middle, and low tidal zones?

We want to find out if there is a difference between how fast clams grow in one area or the other, and we want to find out if they survive in one area over the other.

- What will we cover the clam containers with to protect the clams from predators?

We will put mesh netting over some of the containers to protect them from predators.

- Why will we leave some containers of clams unprotected?

We want to find out if the protective netting makes a higher survival rate

- Why do we need to keep track of where we put each clam container?

We will keep track of each container, so that we can tell what area showed a better growth rate and what area showed a better survival rate.

- Why will we use plastic containers instead of the type we could make out of newspaper?

The containers will be exposed to weathering and water for several months. A newspaper container would not survive for that long and we could not tell what happened to the clams that were placed in it.

- What do you think will happen to the clam containers? Why?

Accept various responses for this question. Some will think that the containers will be there in the fall; others will think they will be gone. Why? Some will think the containers will be destroyed by weathering and water or predators in the area (human or animal); some will think clams will grow, others will think they will die

HYPOTHESIS

- What do you predict will happen to the clams that are planted in protected and unprotected plastic containers at the upper, middle, and lower intertidal?

This section is meant to be their predictions to the hypothesis. Have them write their predictions down to be given to DEI (Instructors may submit copies of the student work instead of the originals). If the students are too young to do the writing, the Instructor could have them do this as a group, and write some predictions down for them. A worksheet is included which can be used for their predictions to the hypothesis.