

In this first sample, most of the student's written work reflects descriptive observations about the movement of the isopods. Instead of stating that the isopod wanted to get out, the student should be encouraged to describe what she sees the isopod doing that causes her infer that it wants to get out.

Light and Isopods Experiment

Name: _____ Date: _____


This is a diagram of your trough.

X	X O	O	
<u>Bright</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Dim</u>	<u>Dark</u>

1. Label each section with amount of light it received (bright, medium, dim, and dark).
2. Place the isopods in the trough and make a O at each isopod's starting position.
3. Record the starting time: 2:50
4. Record the ending time (2 minutes later): _____
5. Make X's to show where the isopods were at the ending time.

Describe what happened during the experiment.

One of our isopods tried to get out of the trough. I pushed him back in so he probably wanted to get out again. He got stuck under the tape and he got stuck in the bright spot. Our other isopod stayed in a ball in the middle section the whole time.

 Carefully return isopods to the terrarium.

Descriptive observations

*Scroll down for another sample.

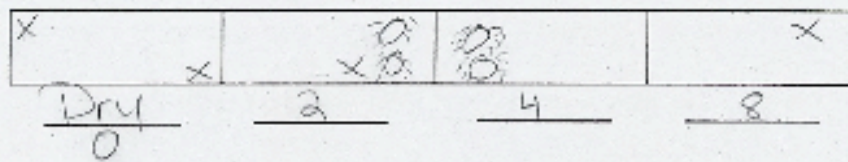
In this example, the student's first observation provides great information about the actions of the isopods. Her remaining comments are a summary of the data—this is typical for this grade level. The student should be encouraged to describe what the isopods did and how they moved while in the trough. Teachers should help students realize that the data they record in the trough picture only gives partial information about the experiment. The written observations are necessary for capturing everything that occurred during the 8 minutes of the experiment, not just the ending location of the isopods.

Water and Isopods Experiment

Name: _____

Date: _____

This is a diagram of your trough.



1. Label each section with number of milliliters of water you added.
2. Place the isopods in the trough and make a ○ at each isopod's starting position.
3. Record the starting time: 2:25
4. Record the ending time (8 minutes later): 2:35
5. Make X's to show where the isopods were at the ending time.

Describe what happened during the experiment.

Some of the isopods were burrowing in the dirt. We had four isopods. Two of the isopods ended up in Dry/0. One ended up in 2 and the other one ended up in eight.



Carefully return isopods to the terrarium.