Survival of the fittest lab

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**Content Purpose:** Conduct a lab using the scientific method to demonstrate survival of the fittest in nature.

**Language purpose:**

1. Create a question for the survival of the fittest lab. Consider what you want to know about adaptation and variation to form your question.

2. Research and Write 3-5 lines about natural selection and survival of the fittest. Use the vocabulary from page 198.

3. Create a hypothesis using your question from #1 and the research in #2. Make sure your hypothesis is in the IF……THEN….BECAUSE….. format.

4. Procedure: Pretend you are a hawk hunting mice in a field

* Each person in the 4 person group will have 30 seconds to collect as many mice as possible.
* Only one “mouse” can be picked up at a time.
* The mouse must be brought back to the nest before the next mouse can be caught.
* Repeat 4 times (1 x for each person in the group.)

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Lab Data Table

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Trial # | Speckled Mice | Black Mice | White Mice |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Write a conclusion (on a separate sheet of paper to be handed in)

What was the purpose of the lab?

Restate the hypothesis. What did you think the results would be? Accept or reject the hypothesis.

Discuss you results in detail (use the numbers of mice caught and trial # ‘s)

Discuss what would happen to hawks if all the mice were speckled?

What would happen to the speckled mice population if there no hawks eating them?