



Name: _____

Anatomy Detectives

Scientific Question: How is a mealworm's body designed to live as a scavenger?

Passage Connection: Connects to the main idea that a mealworm is not a worm, but an insect larva with specific body parts, and reinforcing the term hard shell (exoskeleton).

Materials Needed:

- Magnifying glasses
- Mealworms (one per student or pair)
- A safe surface (like a paper plate)
- "Anatomy Detective" worksheet with a simple insect diagram (Head, Thorax, Abdomen)



Procedure:

Gently Handle: Students should gently place their mealworm on a paper plate. Remind them that mealworms do not bite but are fragile.

Observation: Use magnifying glasses to look closely at the mealworm.

Counting: Ask students to count how many legs they see. (Wait, do "worms" have legs?)

Result: They have 6 legs, grouped near their head.

Segment Search: Ask students to look at the body. Is it one smooth piece, or is it divided into segments (rings)? Count the segments. **Result:** They have about 13 segments.

Head Hunting: Find the head. Look for antennae (tiny feelers).

Labeling: On their worksheet, students draw their mealworm and label the Head, Thorax (where the legs are), and Abdomen (the main tail part).

Discussion: How do six legs help it "wiggle around" under leaves?



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