

## Welcome to Your Live Animal Materials

In this guide you will find the materials and information needed to prepare and care for your mealworms and pill bugs.

## SK2.3 The Diversity of Life

**Anchoring Phenomena:**  
The Diversity of Life

**Driving Question:**  
How do living things survive in their environment?

## Science Center Support Materials

### Bag Z

- 16oz. soil
- 1 petri dish
- 1 – 6x9 bag oatmeal (or 2 – 4x6 bags)
- 30 – 8oz deli containers with lids w/holes
- 30 paintbrushes

### Loose Items

- 1 Kritter Keeper

### Vendor Provided

- Mealworms
- Pill bugs
- Woodland/sphagnum moss

Tenebrio molitor – Mealworm  
Armadillidium vulgare – Pill bug Care Guide

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Your live materials will be priority shipped and require immediate opening upon arrival. It is important that you prepare habitats for their arrival accordingly, as leaving them in their shipping packaging for too long could lead to increased stress for the animals.

### Preparing for Arrival

After you have ordered your live material, you will receive a box labeled Grade 2 Mealworms & Pill Bug Support Materials, from the Science Center. The box will contain everything needed to support your live material from housing to food, etc.

1. Prepare your terrarium by adding 1” of compacted soil to the bottom of the tank.
2. Nutrition for the mealworms can be provided by placing a petri dish firmly into the soil and filling with oatmeal and a slice of apple or potato for moisture.
3. Nutrition for the pill bugs similarly can be provided by adding some apple and potato slices directly to the soil.
4. Leave a four-square inch area open for the sphagnum moss to be placed upon arrival



## Arrival Day

Your creatures will arrive safely packed in a sealed, but breathable, container. Upon arrival do not delay in removing them from their shipping containers and placing them into their new habitat.

For the sphagnum moss, make a shallow depression in the potting medium roughly the size and shape of the moss mat. Place the moss into this depression and press down to make good contact with the soil. Press the soil up around the sides of the moss mat. The moss should project above the surface of the soil. Mist daily and keep in a shaded location away from direct sunlight.



## Feeding

Maintain unspoiled potato/apple slices along with oatmeal in the tank at all times.

## Holiday Feeding and Care

While leaving the mealworms and pill bugs in school over the two-day weekend is perfectly fine, **if school is closed for an extended period of time, the mealworms and pill bugs should be brought home with the teacher or a student volunteer.**

## Maintenance of Habitat

Keep your terrarium away from direct sunlight. Mist with water to maintain humidity and moisture but avoid making soil “wet.” Immediately remove any food that has spoiled.

Sphagnum moss needs to be kept moist and should never be allowed to completely dry.



## Handling

Both pill bugs and mealworms can be safely held. Always wash hands after handling.

## Removal from Classroom

Teachers are free to keep the mealworms and pill bugs if they wish. You will be **responsible for providing a long-term home, food and anything else needed to house/care for the animal.**

At some point you may want to say goodbye to your classroom pet. There are a number of ways to safely remove them from your classroom:

1. Sending your classroom pet home with a student is possible only with parent agreement and an understanding of how to appropriately care for the animal. Please confirm with parent. **Student is responsible for providing a home, food and anything else needed to house/care for the animal.**
2. Contact your middle and high school science teachers to see if they have any interest in housing the fish and snails.
3. Contact a local pet store to see if they will accept your fish and snails.
4. If you are part of OHM BOCES and our couriers go to your school, please email the Science Center at [sciencecenter@oneida-boces.org](mailto:sciencecenter@oneida-boces.org) to arrange a live animal pick-up.
5. **Both Pill bugs and Mealworms are native to New York and may safely be released.**