

Lesson Plan 5: Field Mustard Natural Selection Investigation

Time: 45 min

Goals for the lesson:

- Students use evidence to create an explanation of natural selection in a plant population.
- Students apply CT to create algorithmic explanations of natural selection in the plant context.

Lesson assessments:

- Students' algorithms can be assessed for computational thinking and natural selection understanding.
- Worksheets included in the lesson can be used to assess the evaluation of evidence.

Resources/Materials:

- Plant algorithm handout
- Mustard Evidence Power Point
- Mustard Evidence Evaluation handout

Instructional sequence

Learning Activity	Materials/Supplies
Either show or give students the field mustard evidence Power Point. Students work through the mustard evidence evaluation handout, which asks them to evaluate each piece of evidence and draw conclusions from each. It can be helpful to scaffold this by working through on piece of evidence as a class.	Mustard evidence Power Point, Mustard evidence evaluation handout
Students can discuss with a partner or in small groups the phenomenon taking place with the mustard. The teacher can ask guiding questions, such as What is happening with the sheep population over time? What trends can we draw from the evidence? Why is this trend happening?	
Students then create an algorithmic explanation of natural selection with the plant population. This can be done individually or in groups at the teacher's discretion. It will be important for students to each have a copy of this algorithm for later lessons.	Mustard algorithm handout