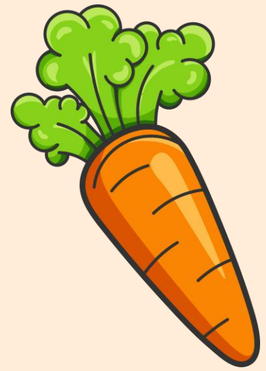
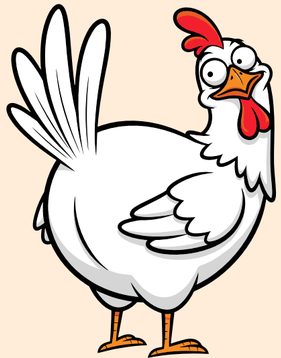


Hot Peck or Cold Cluck?

A Chicken Taste Test

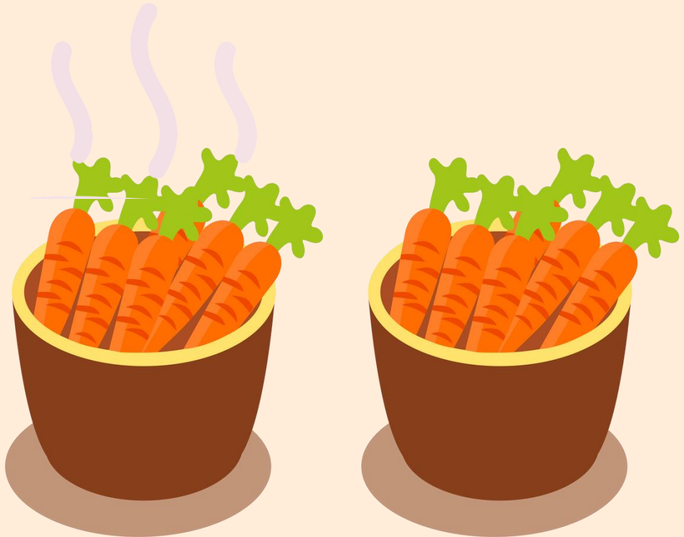
Introduction

Before beginning our investigation, students already knew that chickens eat fruits and vegetables and that food can feel hot, warm, or cold. Students also had prior experience observing animals and sharing what they notice. We wanted to do this project because students were curious about whether animals have preferences, just like people, and whether temperature or texture affects what chickens choose to eat. This curiosity was introduced through our essential question and vocabulary shared during Science Time.



Research question

Do chickens eat food differently when it is hot or cold?

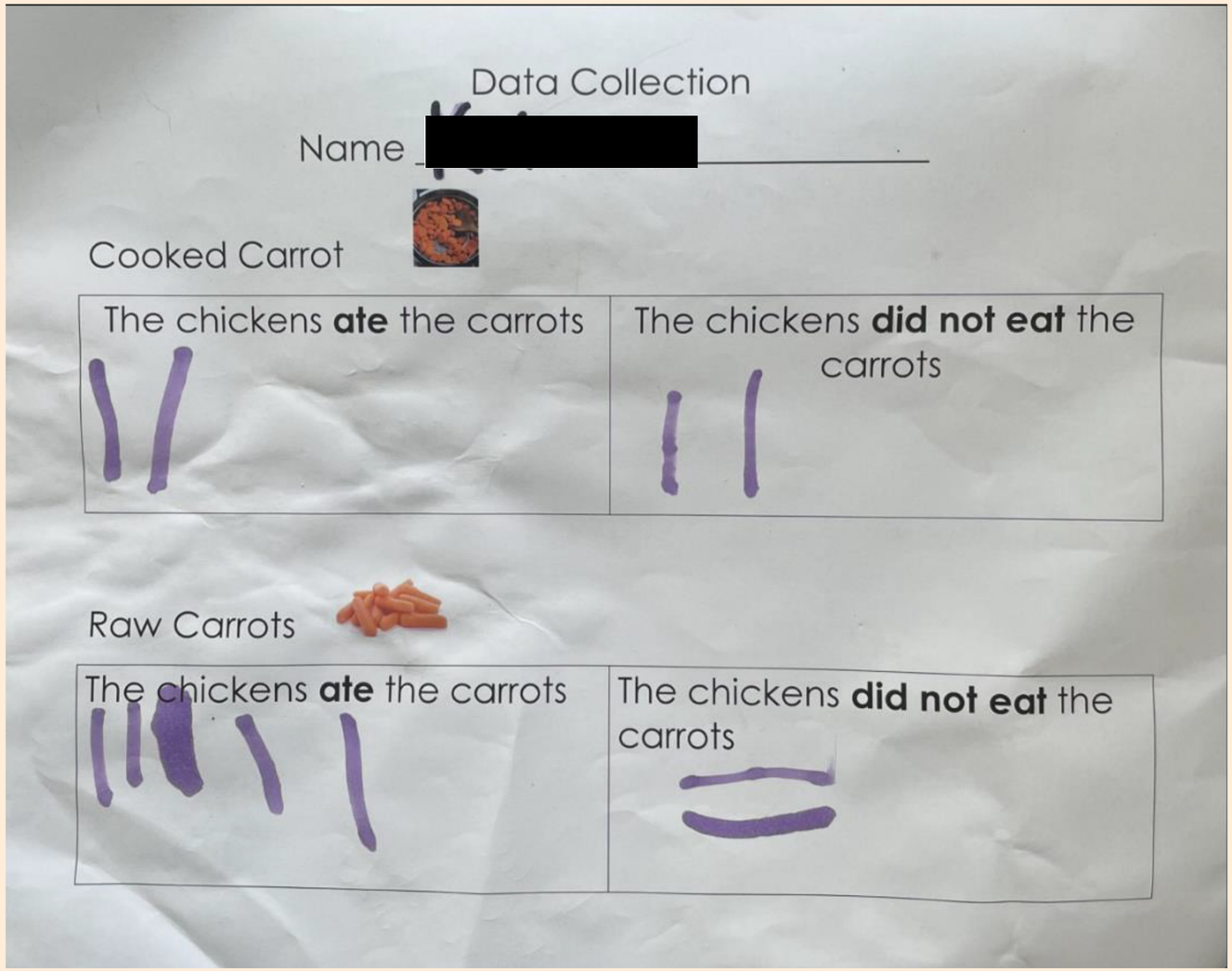


Methods and procedure

To answer our research question, students helped test and compare food given to the chickens at different temperatures.

We observed the chickens as they were offered warm and raw carrots. Students carefully watched how the chickens interacted with each type of food and shared what they noticed.

Results



Data Collection

Name [redacted]

Cooked Carrot

The chickens **ate** the carrots	The chickens **did not eat** the carrots
11	11

Raw Carrots

The chickens **ate** the carrots	The chickens **did not eat** the carrots
1111	=

Results

During our observations, students noticed patterns in the chickens' choices. Student comments included:

"The chickens like cold food."
"The chickens don't like hot."
"The chickens like crunchy."
"Apples are crunchy."
"They like more crunchier like normal carrots."
"Maybe they don't like temperatures that are not cold."
"Maybe they do like more crunchy than soft, but maybe if they were the same temperature they would eat both."
"They like grown food."

Discussion and interpretation

Students learned that chickens seemed to prefer cold and crunchy foods over warm or soft foods. They also learned that careful observation helps scientists make better guesses. If we were to do this experiment again, we could control the temperature more carefully and test foods that are the same texture but different temperatures to better understand what the chickens prefer.

Implications and ideas for future research

Our findings suggest that texture may matter just as much as temperature when it comes to food choices. This led students to ask new questions, such as:

Do chickens always prefer crunchy food?

Would they eat warm food if it was crunchy?

Do other animals like different temperatures or textures too?

These questions show that students are beginning to think like scientists by using evidence to ask deeper questions.

References

Video watched before:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itjWSotbmGk