

## Trend task



## Strawberry Patch

**Approach:** One to one

**Level:** Year 4 and year 8

**Focus:** Choice of materials to suit particular purpose.

**Resources:** 5 types of cover material, 6 types of fastener, sample of frame material, photo, plan of frame.

**Questions/instructions:**

In this activity you will be thinking about the best way to protect a strawberry garden from birds.

Here is a picture of a strawberry patch.

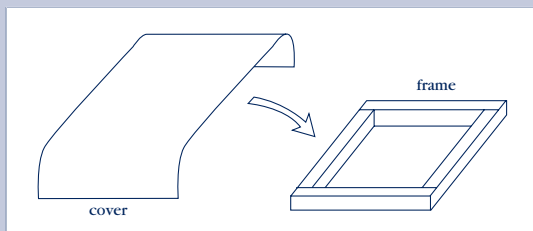
**Show student the photo.**

1. There is a problem.  
Birds keep on eating the nice, juicy strawberries. How do you think the problem could be fixed?



**Pause for answer.**

One idea for fixing the problem is to put a cover on a frame, then put the covered frame over the strawberry patch. Here is a plan of a frame to help you think about that idea.



**Show student the plan.**

Here are some materials that could be used for the cover on the frame.

**Give student the possible covers.**

2. Which material do you think is the most suitable one to use?

	% responses	
	2000 ('96)	2000 ('96)
	year 4	year 8
fine plastic netting, 3cm holes	8 (8)	12 (9)
black polythene sheet	19 (13)	5 (6)
windbreak cloth	30 (40)	30 (35)
plastic netting, 5cm holes	3 (3)	3 (1)
chicken wire, 1cm holes	40 (36)	50 (49)

3. Why would that material be the best to use?

	% responses	
	2000 ('96)	2000 ('96)
	year 4	year 8
unable to be penetrated by birds		
size of mesh	78 (79)	85 (86)
allows sun through	14 (8)	37 (35)
allows moisture through	8 (7)	16 (20)
creates good conditions for growth	9 (17)	17 (22)
easy to work with	4 (2)	8 (4)



**Give student the wood.**

The plan shows that the cover needs to be attached to some pieces of wood.

**Give student the fasteners.**

Here are some things that could be used to attach the material to the wood.

4. What do you think would be best for attaching the cover to the wood?

	% responses	
	2000 ('96)	2000 ('96)
	year 4	year 8
glue	8 (5)	2 (0)
nails	33 (32)	20 (16)
PVC insulation tape	18 (7)	4 (5)
drawing pins	2 (0)	1 (2)
wire staples	33 (45)	66 (68)
polypropylene string	6 (11)	7 (9)

5. How would you use this fastening (or these fastenings) to attach the cover to the wood?

6. Explain why you think that would be the best way to attach the net to the wood.

**responses to 5 & 6**  
*practicality, durability*

	% responses	
	2000 ('96)	2000 ('96)
	year 4	year 8
strong	10 (6)	17 (13)
moderate	39 (47)	50 (53)
weak	49 (46)	32 (33)
none	3 (1)	1 (1)

**Commentary:**

About 15 percent more year 8 than year 4 students gave good explanations for their choice of materials and method of attachment. Little change was evident between 1996 and 2000 for year 4 or year 8 students.