



Classroom Activity

10 Big Question: How can we feed the world sustainably?

Ripe companions

This simple experiment demonstrates both the effect of ethylene on ripening fruits and the production of ethylene by ripe fruits. It can be done in small groups in the classroom or potentially as an individual homework assignment.

For this activity you will need:

- Two green bananas
- One ripe avocado
- Two paper bags

The experiment

1. Place one of the green bananas in a paper bag with the avocado and store on one side of the room.
2. Place the other green banana in a paper bag by itself, storing it on a separate side of the room to the bag with a banana and avocado.
3. Over the next two days, make sure both bags are kept at room temperature and take regular photographs of the two bananas.
4. Compare the ripening progress of the two bananas.

Which has ripened more and faster? Why do you think this might be? How might this affect how you would store and transport different fruits?

This activity can be extended by trying it with an unripe avocado and a ripe banana in the same bag.