

RECORDING VARIATIONS

KEY IDEAS

- Each living thing is unique
- Many differences between living things of the same type can be observed, measured and recorded

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

- How are the members of one type of living thing (eg cats, humans) the same, and how are they different?
- What different ways could you measure and record differences between living things of the same type?

THERE IS VARIATION BETWEEN LIVING THINGS OF THE SAME TYPE

- Each living thing is unique. For example, no two plants are exactly the same.
- Every individual daisy is different in some way from every other daisy.
- Every human is different from every other human.
- Many of these differences can be observed, measured and recorded.

OBSERVING AND RECORDING LIVING THINGS

- There are numerous different ways of observing and recording living things.
- You can make notes, do drawings and take all sorts of measurements.
- How you want to record living things will depend on what you are studying.
- If you are studying humans you might want to look at:
 - Height
 - Weight
 - Hair colour

- Eye colour
- Lobed or lobeless ears
- The variations in the features you observe may be partly due to inherited causes and partly due to environmental causes.
- Species gradually evolve by a process of natural selection. Living things with the features best suited to their environment are most likely to survive and therefore reproduce.

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