

National curriculum objectives



- working scientifically: recording data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs

Resources (you will need):

Access to computers, photo of a human, paper, pencils and LOA 10-20 (animal photographs) PDF



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60 MINUTE ACTIVITY

Ask pairs of learners to draw a table. The table should have 2 columns and 10 rows (this could either be on a computer or by hand - both skills are valuable when working scientifically). The first column should be headed 'animal'. Hold the following photos up one by one, identify the animal as a class and ask pairs to write the name in the first column - photo 01 (dog), 02 (Roe deer), 03 (European badger), 04 (bull), 05 (horse), 06 (mink), 07 (Red fox), 08 (European hare) and a photo of a human.

Explain that they are going to be doing some research on these animals. Has anyone heard the word gestation before? Write the word on the board and ask learners to write it as the heading in their second column. Gestation is the period of growth and development when a mammal is in the mother's womb.

Now explain that learners are ready to do some research. With access to computers, ask learners to find the gestation period for the animals listed in their table. Please note: do not ask learners to do online image searches on this topic, as inappropriate or disturbing images can sometimes appear.

When research is complete, first ask learners to make any calculations needed to convert the gestation periods to days (this will make answering the following questions easier). Learners should then work through some pre-set questions e.g. Which animal, that you have just researched, has the longest gestation period? Why do you think this might be? Which has the shortest? What do you notice about the gestation periods of animals? Is there a pattern? How does the gestation of these animals compare with humans?

Class reflection:

All animals have a common aim - to reproduce. They want to keep the species alive by producing offspring so the gestation period is very important. They need to stay safe and look after themselves so they can give birth and care for it's young. Unfortunately the animals you have researched today are under threat. They are sometimes hunted and used for sport which often involves killing the pregnant mother, and therefore her babies. We need to learn, care and protect these animals so they can complete their gestation periods and keep their species going.

Have time for a maths link?

Show learners how to record their data as bar/line charts, using squared paper. They should label the x axis correctly, choose an appropriate range for the y axis, by looking at their research and record the gestation periods correctly to show their research clearly. Rounding the gestation periods to the nearest 10, may make the graphs clearer and easier to draw but also add an additional mathematical challenge to complete.

*Year 5 and 6 objectives