

Task: Understand the life processes of animals. Use secondary sources to make comparisons and draw conclusions. Look for patterns in data.

What is meant by the term 'gestation period'?

What class of animals has a gestation period?

Why don't other animals have gestation periods?

Look at this data about gestation periods. How could it be organised in order to find patterns?

Animal	Gestation Period (rounded to nearest 5 days)
Hamster	20
Squirrel	35
Gerbil	25
Ferret	40

Complete the block diagram to show gestation periods of animals.

40				
35				
30				
25				
20				
	Hamster	Gerbil		Ferret

Here is a bar chart with more animals included. What patterns do you notice?



Why do you think this is?

Are there any animals that don't fit the pattern?

What further investigation would you like to carry out?

Please tweet the results of any further investigation that you complete! Was your prediction about the bar chart data correct?

Answers:

What is meant by the term 'gestation period'?

Time that an animal/fetus spends developing inside their parent's body

What class of animals has a gestation period?

Mammals

Why don't other animals have gestation periods?

They don't have live babies, they lay eggs

Look at this data about gestation periods. How could it be organised in order to find patterns?

Animal	Gestation Period (rounded to nearest 5 days)
Hamster	20
Squirrel	35
Gerbil	25
Ferret	40

Longest to shortest/shortest to longest (accept other wording: biggest, smallest, greatest, least etc)

Complete the block diagram to show gestation periods of animals.

40				
35				
30				
25				
20				
	Hamster	Gerbil	Squirrel	Ferret

Here is a bar chart with more animals included. What patterns do you notice?



In general, the larger the animal, the longer the gestation period is

Accept other patterns supported by the data

Why do you think this is?

It takes longer for a bigger animal to grow

Are there any animals that don't fit the pattern?

A blue whale is bigger than a giraffe and an elephant but has a shorter gestation period

Accept other reasoned suggestions: e.g. a bear can be heavier than a horse but has a shorter gestation period

What further investigation would you like to carry out?

Do others sea mammals have shorter gestation periods than land mammals?

How long do eggs take to grow – does this relate to size of animal?

Does gestation period relate to life span?

Accept other reasonable questions to investigate based on gestation

Please tweet the results of any further investigation that you complete! Was your prediction about the bar chart data correct?