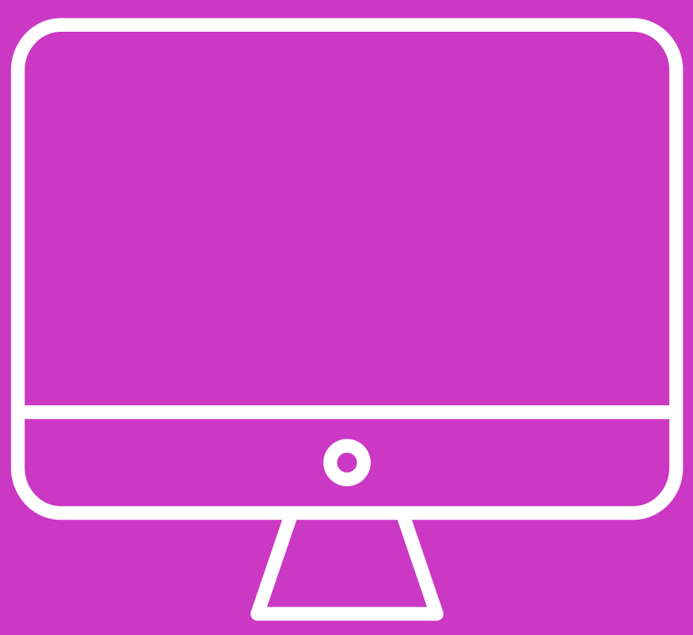
Comparative and Fair Testing

Changing one variable to see its effect on another, whilst keeping all others the same.

A fair test is one where only one thing is changed. If you change more than one variable, it is a comparative test!

When we design tests, we think about what can be changed, and whether this will change the result.

Research



Using secondary sources of information to answer scientific questions.

We can use pictures, books, websites or information sheets to help us find out answers to questions in any area of science.

School trips and visitors can also help us with research!

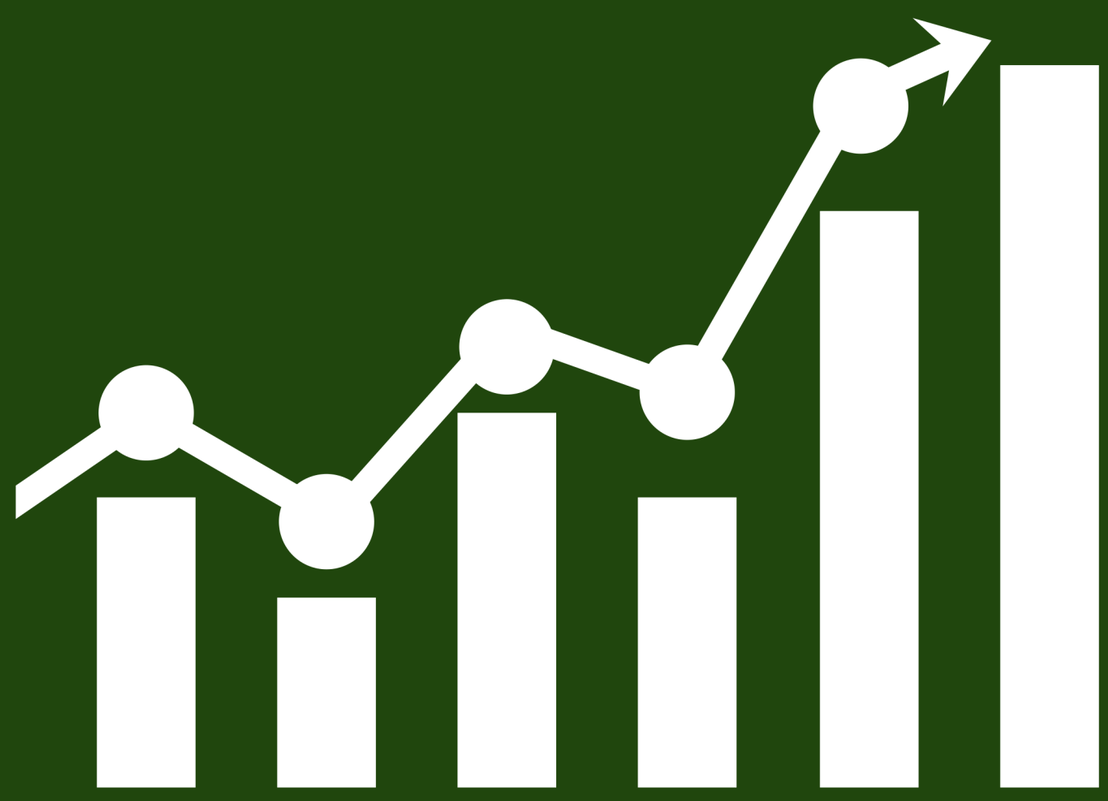
Observing Over Time

Observing changes that occur over a period of time ranging from minutes to months.

All sorts of questions can be answered through observation over time.

The period of time might be seconds, days or even months depending on the question asked!

Pattern Seeking

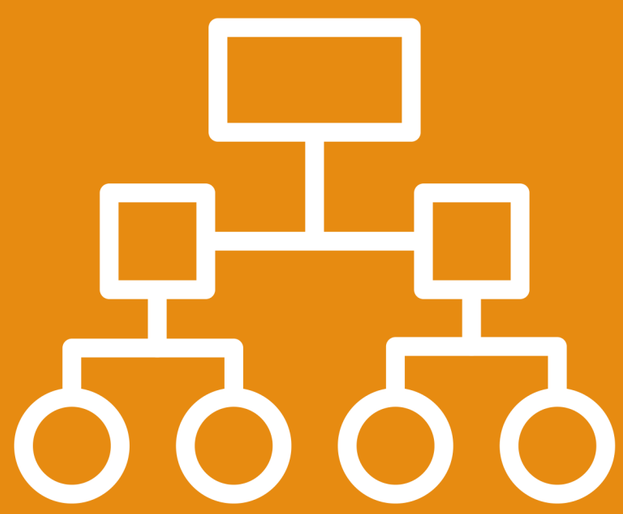


Identifying patterns and and looking for relationships in enquiries where variables are difficult to control.

Pattern seeking often starts with a question about a possible link between two events or variables.

To answer these types of questions, we need to collect data!

Identifying, Classifying and Grouping



Making observations to name, sort and organise items.

We begin by performing simple grouping tasks, sorting items by simple features such as colour, shape and size.
Then we can start using our scientific knowledge to organise and classify plants, animals and materials using their properties.