

Activity 16.5

To find the effect of storage time on the germination rate of seeds

Skills

A03.2 Planning

A03.3 Observing, measuring and recording

A03.4 Interpreting and evaluating observations and data

Many seeds are able to survive in a dormant state for years. However, the percentage of seeds that germinate does tend to fall as the seeds age.

You are going to design and carry out an investigation to test this hypothesis:

The older a batch of seeds is, the lower the percentage of the seeds that will germinate.

Remember to think about variables – what you will change, what you will keep the same and what you will measure. Think also about how you will record and display your results.

When you have written your plan, check it with your teacher before carrying out your experiment.

Analyse your results. Do they support or disprove your hypothesis? Discuss the main sources of error in your experiment, and suggest how you could improve it if you were able to do it again.