

# Task notes | Open or closed?

Y6

## ► Notes for parents. Activity next page.

### The purpose of this task is:

- focus on the data gathering aspect of statistics, as your child designs a simple survey to try out on members of your family (instead of the people in their class as it says on the second page)

They are asked to look for an issue or problem at home that the results of their survey would help to solve.

### Perhaps they might investigate:

- jobs that people (could) help with around the house
- preferred foods
- time spent each day using a device (iPad, cellphone, laptop, etc...)
- the cost of family travel each week

Their findings might lead to their making some useful suggestions at home.



# Open or Closed?

You need ★ classmates

## Activity One

Survey questions can be either closed (allowing a limited number of possible answers) or open (allowing many possible answers). Here is an example of each type:

### Closed

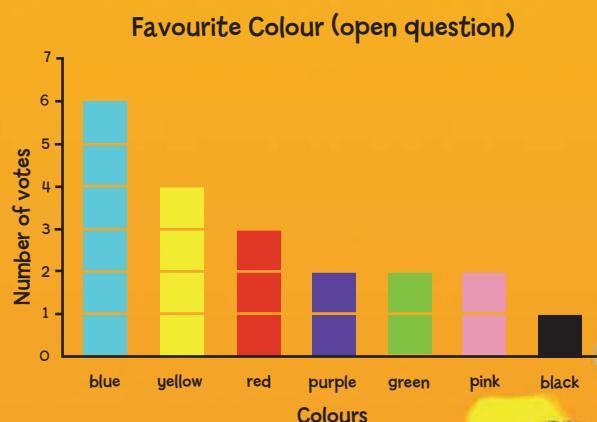
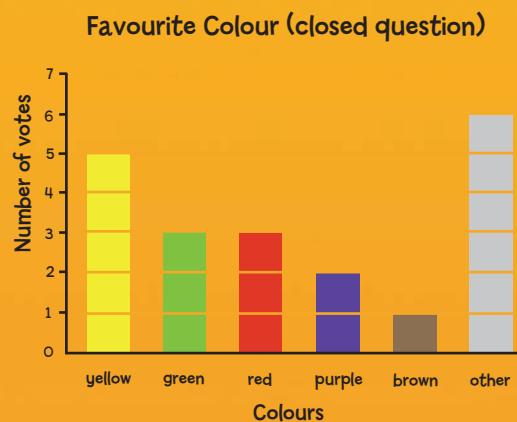
What is your favourite colour? (Tick one.)



### Open

What is your favourite colour? .....

- If you were investigating favourite colours, why might you ask a closed question?
- Mani asked 20 people the closed question and 20 different people the open question. Here is her data:



- What difference did the question make to the answers Mani got?
- Which question do you think was better? Why?

## Activity Two

1.

Here are three survey questions. Decide whether each is open or closed. Could you ask the question in a better way? If you could, how would you do so and why?

- How often do you eat fruit?
- Who buys the fruit in your family?

parent

caregiver

auntie

uncle

grandparent

me

brother

sister

other

- At what time of the year do you eat the most fruit?

summer

autumn

winter

spring

all year round

2.

Discuss with a classmate:

Who could use data gathered using the questions above?

How might they find it useful?



### Investigation

With a classmate, think of something you'd like to investigate. Make up an open and a closed survey question for your investigation.

Survey the rest of your class with both questions. Which gave you more helpful information?

Graph the data for the better survey question and discuss what it shows you.

Focus

Asking survey questions that get useful data