**Investigating the food preferences of slugs - Skills**

**A03.3 Observing, measuring and recording**

**A03.4 Interpreting and evaluating observations and data**

1. Collect 12 slugs or other small herbivores of the same species.
2. Collect leaves from four different kinds of plant growing in the same area.
3. Identify the plants and call them A, B, C and D.
4. Place pairs of undamaged leaves into six jars as follows:  
   **A** and **B** **B** and **C** **A** and **C**  
   **B** and **D** **A** and **D** **C** and **D**Make sure that you label the jars.
5. To each jar add two animals and put the lid on.
6. On the next day, remove the animals and examine the leaves.
7. Draw up a suitable results table. For each leaf record the amount eaten as follows:

No damage 0

Leaf nibbled 1

Less than half eaten 2

More than half eaten 3

Leaf completely eaten 4

1. For each type of leaf, add the scores. Construct a histogram or pie chart to show the results.

**Questions**

**A1** Which kind of plant did your animals prefer?  
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**A2** Can you suggest why your animals preferred this kind of plant?  
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**A3** Why undamaged leaves must be used in the experiment?  
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**A4** Why were the leaves used in pairs rather than one at a time?  
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**A5** Do you think that it would have been better to give the animals all the leaves at one time?  
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