



## How weird is our class?

**Have you ever wondered how your class differs from other Canadian students your age? This activity will allow you to compare the survey data from your class with the results from a sample of Canadian students.**

First go to [www.censusatschool.ca](http://www.censusatschool.ca) and click on *Data and results*. Follow the instructions to retrieve a large sample of Canadian results.

Then compare your class data with the national data **and answer the following questions:**

1. Does our class spend more hours per week playing sports than other Canadian students our age?
2. Do we have a larger proportion of students who have allergies?
3. Do we litter more?
4. Are we bullied more often?

**Now, compile the results of your research to answer the following questions:**

5. Is our class weird? How did we make our decision?
6. Why might differences exist between one class and the national sample?
7. What are some of the potential dangers of making generalizations about an entire population based on a select sample?

### Teacher's notes

Possible approaches:

1. Discuss the concepts of negligible difference and confidence intervals with your students.
2. Encourage your students to explore, present and discuss different ways of comparing the data (e.g., graphing, comparing averages) to answer questions 1 to 4.
3. Have your students use their analysis to debate whether or not the class is weird.
4. Have your students work in groups. Divide up the questions so that each group answers one of the first four questions. Then hold a mock conference to have them

present their results to the rest of the class. Allow them to debate the resolution of whether or not the class is weird.

Outcomes:

- Students analyse sets of data to make comparisons.
- Students are able to discuss and determine the most suitable method(s) of displaying data.
- Students discuss how collected data are affected by the nature of the sample, the method of collection, the sample size, and biases.

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