



# Comparative and fair testing

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Pupils identify the effect of changing one variable on another whilst attempting to keep other variables constant. They are useful for gathering data that might inform predictions and further tests. In comparative tests pupils compare one event with another and identify different outcomes. With fair tests pupils look to identify a causal relationship between two variables.

**Fair testing** could help you to answer questions like...

- Does the size of the parachute affect the speed it falls to the ground?
- How does voltage affect the brightness of a lamp?
- How does the amount of salt added to water affect the temperature that it freezes?

- **Comparative testing** could help you to answer questions like...
- Which is the most reflective material?
- What kind of sponge will soak up the most water?
- Do all types of sugar dissolve at the same rate?

**What will you ask?**

**What will you find out?**

**How will you record your findings?**