

# Recognizing Statistical Questions



A **statistical question** is a question that can be answered by collecting data. Since responses will typically vary, you would expect more than one answer to a statistical question.

## Example

How tall are the students in Mr. Navarro's class?

*The heights of students in Mr. Navarro's class vary. This is a statistical question because the answer is a collection of heights.*

## Non-example

How tall is Mr. Navarro?

*Mr. Navarro's height does not vary. This is not a statistical question because the answer is one number.*

Determine whether each question is a statistical question. Explain how you know. (Explanations may vary.)

- 1 How many hurricanes were there last year? No. The answer is one number that does not vary.
- 2 How many pages are in the books you typically read? Yes. The number of pages varies from book to book.
- 3 For how many years do hamsters usually live? Yes. The lifespan of hamsters varies.
- 4 How many feet are in one mile? No. The answer is one number that does not vary.
- 5 How many apples did Tiana pick at the farm yesterday? No. The answer is one number that does not vary.
- 6 How much do tomatoes normally weigh? Yes. Weights of tomatoes vary.
- 7 How many countries are there in the world today? No. The answer is one number that does not vary.
- 8 How many siblings do the students in Mr. Meyer's class have? Yes. The number of siblings varies.
- 9 How many items did customers buy at Ali's Grocery on Friday? Yes. The number of items bought varies.
- 10 How many chapters are in *Charlotte's Web*? No. The answer is one number that does not vary.

**Be creative!** Write your own statistical question. Explain how you know it is a statistical question.

*Sample answer: How many peanut butter and jelly sandwiches can be made from one 28-ounce jar of peanut butter?*

*The number of sandwiches varies depending on how thick the peanut butter is spread.*