

Samples and Populations

7th Grade

Why a good sample is small, random, and still trustworthy.

GOOD SAMPLE

- Chosen at random
- Big enough to be stable
- Represents the whole population
- Everyone had an equal chance
- Conclusions can be generalised

BIASED SAMPLE

- Convenient rather than random
- Too small to be reliable
- Misses whole groups
- Self-selected — only the keen replied
- Conclusions do not transfer

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Surveying the school football team about favourite sport is a biased sample, no matter how many you ask.

A random sample of 100 beats a biased sample of 10,000. Size does not fix bias.