

# Guinea Pig House



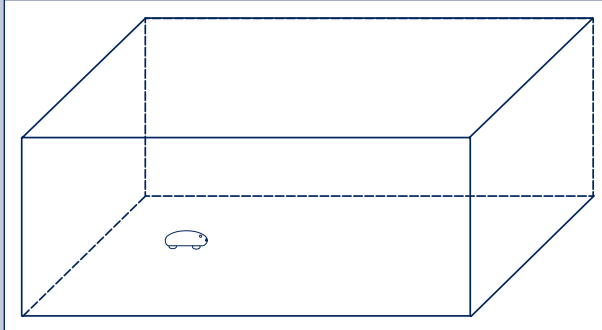
## Trend task

**Approach:** Independent

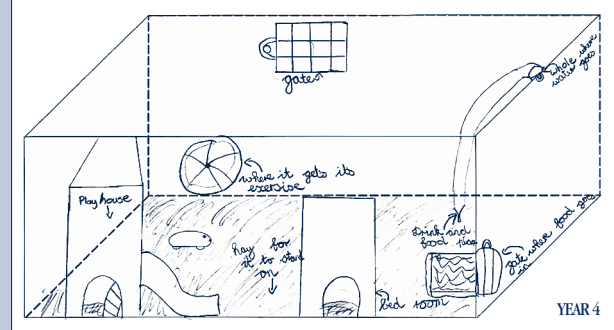
**Level:** Year 4

**Focus:** Evaluating a pet house design and designing an improved model.

**Resources:** Video recording on laptop computer, paper with outline of box.



GUINEA PIG HOUSE OUTLINE



YEAR 4

**Questions/instructions:**

This activity is called *Guinea Pig House*. We'll start by watching a video.

After you have seen the video you have some questions to answer in the book I have given you.

Click the *Play* button to start the video. (See "Pet House", opposite, for images and dialogue from video.)

1. Why would a cardboard box not be a good home to keep the guinea pig in?

**Problems with cardboard material**

not strong	14 (7)
not water/weatherproof	4 (5)
guinea pig can eat it	22 (10)
difficult to clean	2 (1)

**Problems with exsiting design**

too small	19 (25)
poor ventilation	36 (31)
dark, no view	8 (8)
no special activity areas <i>sleep, recreation</i>	7 (6)

*% responses*  
2000 ('96)  
**year 4**

2. Write down the things that would make the pet house a good home for the guinea pig.

3. Below is the start of a plan for the guinea pig's home (*above*).

Finish drawing the plan so it will be a good home. Show all of the parts it would have.

4. Write words on your drawing to help show the parts.

**Responses to 2, 3 and 4**

adequate ventilation	53 (49)
light and view	48 (46)
good shelter	14 (20)
recreational facilities	48 (30)
separate spaces of separate activities	29 (11)
food provided	78 (64)
water provided	66 (47)
floor covering / bedding	56 (41)
entrance/exit/cleaning access	27 (29)
<b>Total score: more than 7</b>	12 (2)
6-7	34 (27)
4-5	36 (39)
2-3	16 (25)
0-1	2 (7)

*% responses*  
2000 ('96)  
**year 4**

**Commentary:**

This task was almost identical to the year 8 task, *Pet House* (opposite), except that the year 8 students didn't have the outline of the house drawn for them. About 15 percent more year 4 students performed well on this task in 2000 than in 1996.