

PD Leader Master
Practice Identifying One Main Learning Goal
Variations in Plants and Animals
(Answer Key)

Use Analysis Guide A (Identifying One Main Learning Goal) to assess the quality of the following candidate learning goals.

One Main Learning Goal	Strong Learning Goal? Yes/No	Reasons
1. Plants or animals of the same group share similar characteristics that we can recognize. They also have variations in traits that help them survive.	Yes	This is a complete-sentence concept worthy of a 40-minute lesson for this grade level.
2. Variations in plants and animals	No	Not a complete sentence. This is a topic statement and isn't specific enough for one main learning goal.
3. How are sunflowers alike and different?	No	This is a question, so it can't be a learning goal.
4. Trait variations in plants or animals of the same kind affect which individual plants or animals survive and which don't.	Yes	This is a complete-sentence concept worthy of a 40-minute lesson for this grade level.
5. Cottonwood tree seeds survive best if they fly far away from the parent tree.	No	This is a science idea that could be an outcome for an activity. It's too narrow and specific to be the main learning goal for a 40-minute lesson.
6. The traits of individual plants or animals of the same kind can vary. We can measure some of these traits and use the measurements to confirm how much variation exists in a specific trait.	Yes	This is a complete-sentence concept worthy of a 40-minute lesson for this grade level.
7. Variations in traits and the environment affect which plants or animals of the same kind survive and which don't.	Yes	This is a complete-sentence concept worthy of a 40-minute lesson for this grade level.
8. Plants or animals of the same kind have measurable differences.	No	This is a science idea that could be an outcome for an activity. It's too narrow and specific to be the main learning goal for a 40-minute lesson.