



Greetings,

We are starting a new science unit in class called *What Explains Similarities and Differences between Organisms?* The unit leads up to a science challenge. Your child will figure out what causes brighter spots in Trinidadian guppies. Your child's at-home and out-of-school experiences can play an essential role in supporting the development of their own and their classmates' understanding of how the world works. As I work on planning the lessons, I would appreciate some ideas about how your child may have already experienced our new topic. Your feedback will help me incorporate their experiences into the unit.

If you can, please respond to as many of the following questions as you are comfortable answering. Rest assured that your child does not have to have relevant previous experiences to be successful with the unit.

1. Does your family grow any plants at home?
2. Does your family have any animals that your child has seen grow over time?
3. Is your child familiar with animals that hatch from eggs, either from seeing them hatch first hand or from watching them hatch in media?

In addition to sharing your child's experiences with me, I encourage you to discuss topics related to this science unit with your child. This can help them make sense of what they are doing in school. Here are some examples of questions to ask at home:

1. Did you look at any plants at school today? What did you notice about them?
2. Did you look at live animals at school? Tell me what they looked like. Tell me how they've changed.
3. Did you play a game about snapdragons at school today? What did you find out?

You can learn more about this science unit at [ScienceEducation.si.edu/variation-phenomenon](https://ScienceEducation.si.edu/variation-phenomenon). Please feel free to ask me questions. I want to work with you to make sure your child gets the most out of this unit.

Thank you.