

Would You Keep This?

An activity of "These pets do not need house training".

Read the article, "These pets do not need house training (page 13, *What's Up* February 2026). The article explores why some young people in China are keeping unusual "pets" like mango seeds.

1. Let's take a look at some of these unusual pets in the following clip:

Youths in China raise "weird pets" for companionship

➤ https://youtube.com/shorts/sAhADmQ_TQs?si=t-QHX02jUQo0ywNR
(CNA, May 8, 2025)

2. Which of the following pets would you choose to keep? (*Pick only one.*)

- A mango seed
- Yeast
- A toothpaste blob
- An Origami creature
- A painted rock
- A green bean

3a) Do a quick poll as a class by raising hands to indicate how many of you would keep each of these pets:

Wacky Pet SURVEY

I WOULD KEEP...	NO. OF STUDENTS
A mango seed	
Yeast	
A toothpaste blob	
An origami creature	
A painted rock	
A bean	

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS POLLED: _____

3b) Watch the following video to learn about pie charts.

What is a pie chart?

➤ https://youtu.be/P2HIgjqIGiU?si=UBCLZmMUdtlzTi_I
(Daphne Draws Data, 31 Jan 2025)

3c) In your group, plot a pie chart to display your polled data.

Step 1: Find the total. Add up the number of students in the poll, e.g. 30.

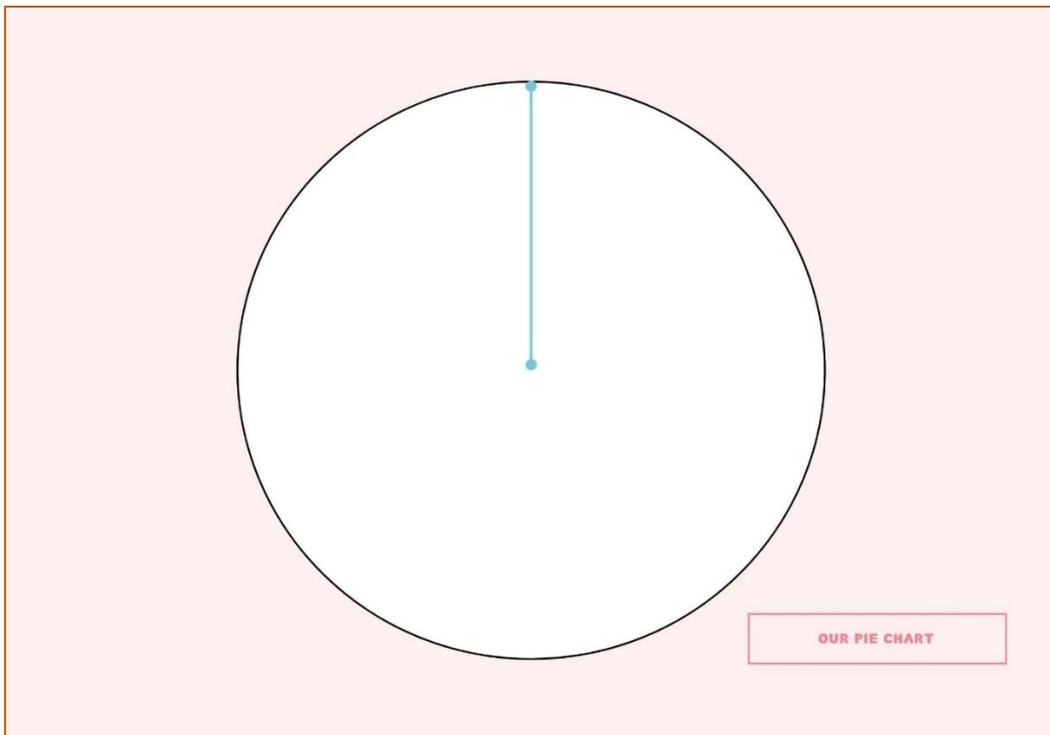
Step 2: Work out each fraction. E.g. Mango seed = 10 out of 30 = $10/30$

Step 3: Convert to angles. A full circle of the pie chart = 360°

Use this formula to calculate each slice of the pie chart:

$(\text{Number of students} \div \text{Total students}) \times 360^\circ$. E.g. Mango seed : $(10 \div 30) \times 360^\circ = 120^\circ$

Step 4: Draw the pie chart. Use a protractor to draw each section. Label and colour them.



4. Based on your pie chart, speculate about the following:

- Why did your classmates prefer certain pets more than others?
- What might have made the least popular one unattractive to most of your class?

5. Now, think about these two big questions:

- What do you think people are really looking for when they keep such pets?
- Do you think these unusual pets will ever replace live ones?

6. Share your speculations with us. Write to letters@whatsup.sg. (See page 2 of *What's Up* for instructions.)