

Kit's Computing Challenge: Designing a Spreadsheet

Learning objective: To understand the structure and purpose of a spreadsheet by planning a data-tracking tool for a personal project.

Kit the fox loves using spreadsheets to organise data and solve complex puzzles. Your task is to plan a spreadsheet that could help you track a project, such as a school reading log, a savings plan for a new hobby, or a tally of items collected on a nature walk. Fill in the sections below to design your layout before you start building it on a computer.

Word bank: cell · column · row · formula · data · value · formatting · spreadsheet · heading · total

1. Project Title and Purpose: What is the specific goal of your spreadsheet, and what variety of data will you be capturing to help you achieve it? (2 marks)

2. Column Headings: List the headings you will place at the top of your columns. Explain why these specific categories are necessary to organise your information effectively. (4 marks)

3. Calculating Values: If you were tracking money (in £) or numbers, which cell would require a formula? Explain the formula you would use to calculate a total. (3 marks)

4. Formatting Choices: How will you use formatting, such as bold text, cell borders, or colour coding, to make your spreadsheet easier to read and interpret? (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Why is a spreadsheet a more efficient tool for this project than a simple handwritten list or a piece of prose? (4 marks)

6. What might happen if: Imagine you accidentally deleted the formula in your 'Total' cell. How would this impact the accuracy of your data, and how would you fix it? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'Greater Depth' feature for your spreadsheet: Create a plan for a 'Conditional Formatting' rule. For example, if you are tracking spending, how could you make the cell turn red automatically if the amount exceeds £10.00? Explain the logic behind your rule.