

Collecting and Sorting Data

Unit · Asking a question, sorting answers and making a table

ELABORATION FOCUS

Acquiring data for categorical variables through surveys, observation and experiment, then sorting the data into categories and displaying it using lists and tables.

LEARNING INTENTION I can collect answers, sort them into groups and show them in a table.

Survey

Data

Sort

Tally

Table

1

Ask a Question

Step 1: choose a question with set choices. Step 2: list the choices people can pick.

2

Collect the Answers

Step 3: ask everyone the same question. Step 4: mark a tally for each answer.

3

Sort and Display

Step 5: put each answer in its group. Step 6: write the totals into a table.

MODEL · FAVOURITE FRUIT IN OUR CLASS

Each person picks one fruit. The tallies are counted, then the totals go into a table.

Fruit	Tally	Total
apple		7
banana		4
orange		3
pear		2

Every answer belongs in exactly one group, and the totals must add up to the number of people asked.

TEACHER MODELLING ROUTINE I do → We do → You do

WATCH FOR

Letting people pick two answers, so the totals no longer match the class size.

REMEMBER

Say it to students as: "How many people chose each one?"

MATERIALS

Survey sheets, tally charts, sticky notes, counters, a class list, a tablet or spreadsheet.

Teacher note: check the totals against the number of students surveyed every time. That single habit catches most data errors and shows why every answer must fit one category only.