

Which Display Is Easiest to Read?

Elaboration 2 · Making several displays of one data set

ELABORATION FOCUS

Creating different data displays, such as lists, tally charts, column graphs and picture graphs, describing the information each display shows and discussing how easy or hard each is to interpret.

LEARNING INTENTION I can make different displays and say which is easiest to read.

List

Tally

Column

Picture

Easy

1

Start With a List

Step 1: write every answer in a list. Step 2: notice how long it gets.

2

Group It

Step 3: turn the list into a tally chart. Step 4: the groups are now easy to count.

3

Draw It

Step 5: build a column or picture graph. Step 6: the biggest group is easy to see.

MODEL · THE SAME DATA, DIFFERENT DISPLAYS

A list holds every answer, but a graph shows the largest group straight away.

cats ■■■■■■
dogs ■■■■
birds ■■■

picture graph

column graph



All four displays hold the same data, but a graph shows the biggest group at a glance.

TEACHER MODELLING ROUTINE I do → We do → You do

WATCH FOR

Thinking one display is wrong, when it is only harder to read.

REMEMBER

Say it to students as: "Which display answers the question fastest?"

MATERIALS

Class list, tally sheets, grid paper, sticky notes, coloured squares.

Teacher note: show the same data four ways and ask which display answered the question fastest. That question does more for data sense than naming display types ever will.