COMPUTING AND DIGITAL LITERACY

Creating Charts

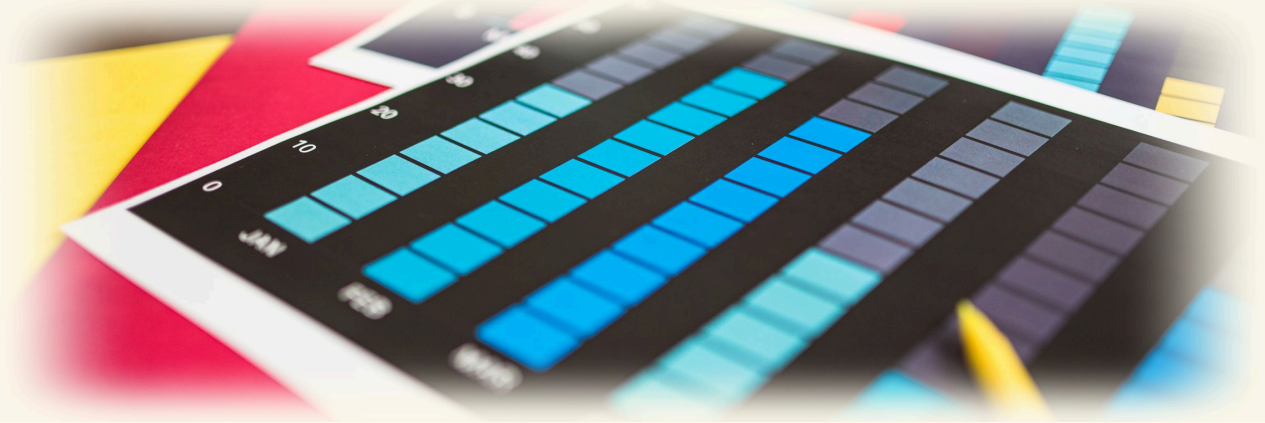
Difficulty level: Easy

Computing and Digital Literacy

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Overview of the concept

This is how you turn a list of numbers into a picture. A bar chart of your class's favourite sports shows the winner at a glance, where a list of numbers hides it. Charts are how newspapers, coaches, and businesses show what the numbers mean without making you read a table. A good chart answers the question before you even have to ask it.

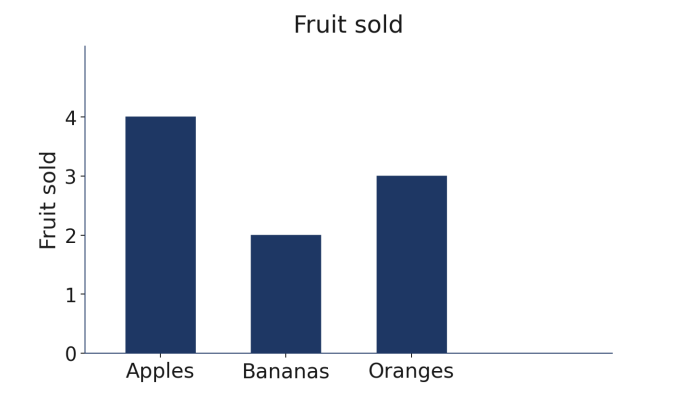


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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q A shop sold 4 apples, 2 bananas and 3 oranges. Which fruit sold most?



SOLUTION

Make a bar chart: one bar for each fruit, with the bar as tall as the number sold.

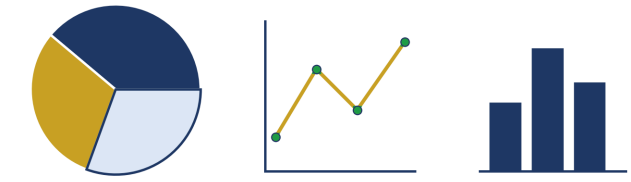
The apples bar reaches 4, the bananas bar reaches 2, the oranges bar reaches 3.

The apples bar is longest, so apples sold most: 4

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EXAMPLE 2

Q Show how a class's favourite sports split into shares of the whole. Which chart type should you use?



pie chart line chart bar chart

SOLUTION

Ask what the chart has to show. Shares of a whole means parts of one pie.

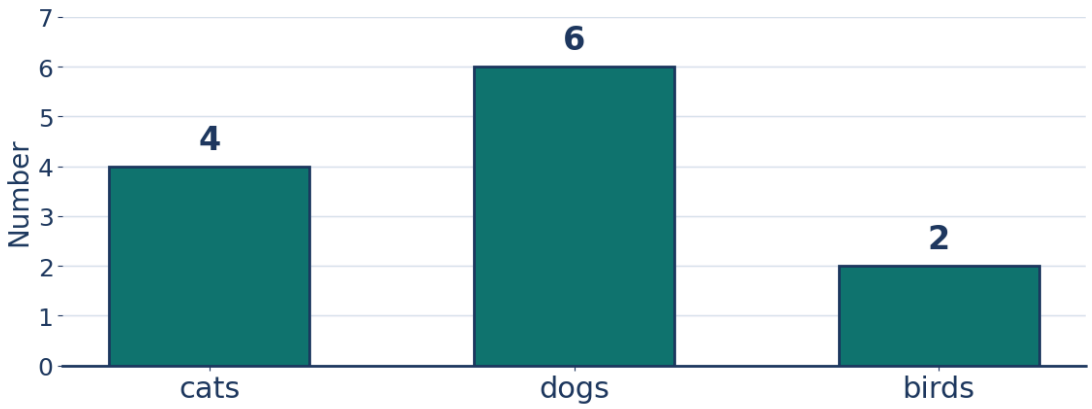
So use a pie chart: each sport gets a slice as big as its share.

Change over time would need a line chart, and comparing categories would need a bar chart.

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Practice questions

1 favourite pets:
cats 4
dogs 6
birds 2
Which bar is tallest, and how tall is it?



A The cats bar, at 4

B The dogs bar, at 6

C The birds bar, at 2

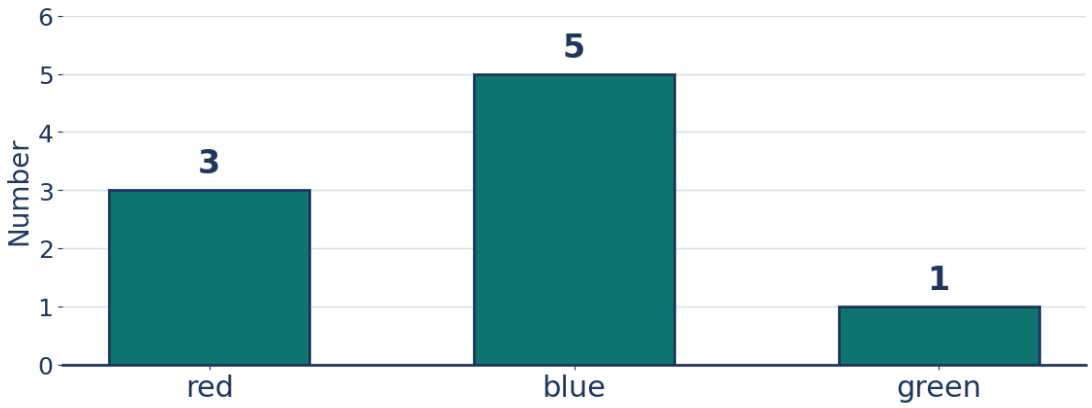
D The dogs bar, at 4

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2

favourite colours:
red 3
blue 5
green 1
Which bar is shortest, and how tall is it?



A The red bar, at 3

B The blue bar, at 5

C The green bar, at 1

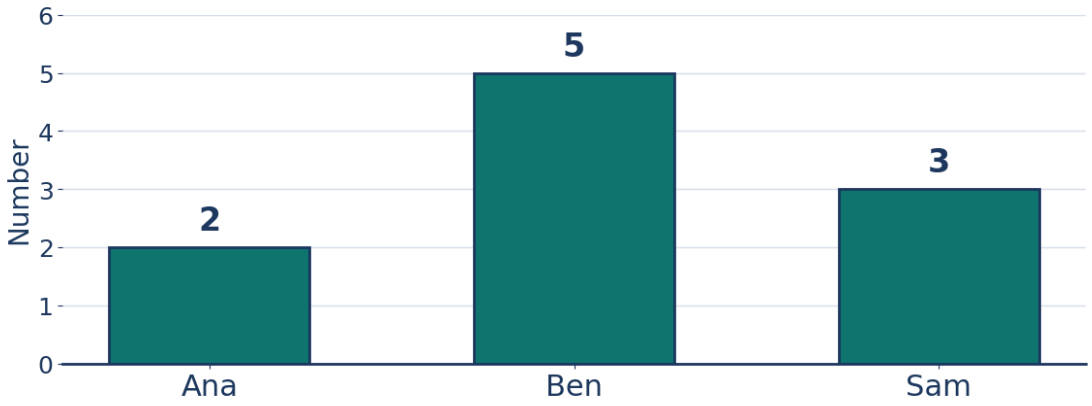
D The green bar, at 3

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3 Ana scored 2 goals, Ben scored 5 and Sam scored 3. How many goals did Ana and Sam score altogether?



A 5

B 7

C 8

D 10

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4 rainfall:
Jan 10 mm
Feb 20 mm
Mar 15 mm
How much more rain fell in Feb than in Jan?

A 5 mm more

B 10 mm more

C 15 mm more

D 20 mm more

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5 Which chart type shows parts of a whole?

A A bar chart

B A pie chart

C A line chart

D A tally chart

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6 Which chart type shows change over time?

- A A pie chart
- B A bar chart
- C A line chart
- D A tally chart

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7 Which chart type compares categories?

- A A pie chart
- B A bar chart
- C A line chart
- D A tally chart

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8

Which chart would show monthly rainfall across a year?

A A bar chart

B A line chart

C A pie chart

D A tally chart

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9

A pie slice is half the pie. What share does it show?

A One quarter (25%)

B One third (33%)

C One half (50%)

D Three quarters (75%)

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10

What must every chart have so readers know what it shows?

A A title and labelled axes

B Bright colours

C A legend only

D A pie slice

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ANSWER KEY

1. The dogs bar, at 6

2. The green bar, at 1

3. 5

4. 10 mm more

5. A pie chart

6. A line chart

7. A bar chart

8. A line chart

9. One half (50%)

10. A title and labelled axes

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