MATHEMATICS · GRADES 4-6

Interpreting data from tables and charts

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Mathematics: Grades 4-6

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Overview of the concept

This is how you read results shown in a table or chart instead of sentences, like a sports league table or a weather forecast graph. Most of the numbers you meet in real life come as tables and charts, not as paragraphs, and knowing how to read them is how you get the facts fast. You use it to check a league table, compare phone plans, read a weather forecast, or make sense of a report at work.



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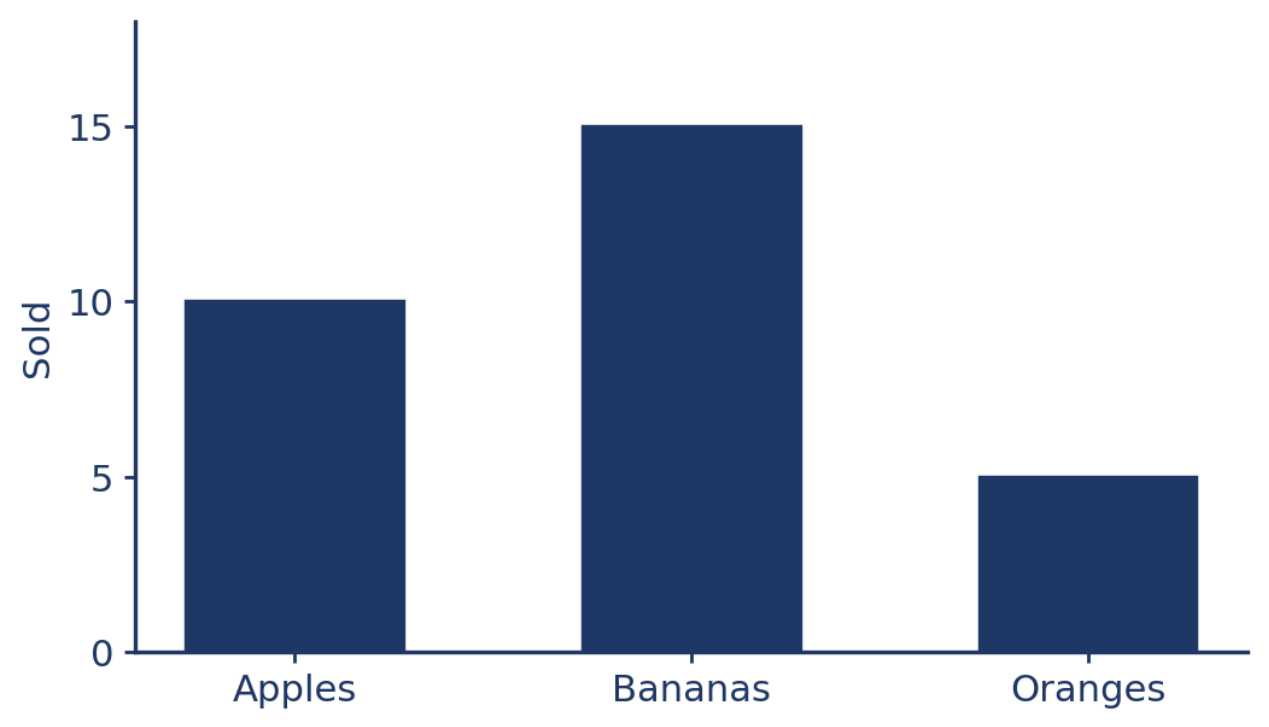
Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q A bar chart shows fruit sales: Apples 10, Bananas 15, Oranges 5. Which fruit sold the most?



SOLUTION

This is a read-the-chart question, and the one rule to remember is to read the number for each bar before you decide anything.

Apples is 10, Bananas is 15, Oranges is 5. The biggest number is 15.

Bananas sold the most. The tallest bar is the answer, but the number is what proves it.

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EXAMPLE 2

Q A table shows visitors to a shop: Monday 5, Tuesday 8, Wednesday 3. How many visitors were there in all?

SOLUTION

Add up every row in the table: 5 + 8 + 3.

5 + 8 = 13, and 13 + 3 = 16

There were 16 visitors in all.

Practice questions

1 Fruit sales: Apples 12, Bananas 9, Oranges 20. Which fruit sold the most?

A Apples

B Bananas

C Oranges

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2 **Visitors: Monday 6, Tuesday 4, Wednesday 9. How many visitors were there in all?**

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3 **Numbers: 10, 30, 20. Which is the middle value?**

A 10

B 20

C 30

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4 **Rainfall: Monday 4 mm, Tuesday 9 mm, Wednesday 6 mm. What is the difference between the wettest and driest days?**

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5 A pictogram shows 3 apple pictures for Monday. Each picture stands for 2 apples. How many apples is that?

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6 Rainfall: Monday 4 mm, Tuesday 9 mm, Wednesday 6 mm. How much rain fell on Tuesday?

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7 Two teams: P scored 14 points, Q scored 8 points. How many more points did P score?

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8 Half the class chose soccer. The other half is split equally between swimming and running. What fraction of the class chose swimming?

- **A** $\frac{1}{2}$
- **B** $\frac{1}{3}$
- **C** $\frac{1}{4}$
- **D** $\frac{3}{4}$

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9 A pictogram shows 10 apples in total. Each picture stands for 2 apples. How many pictures are there?

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10 **A bus leaves. You arrive at 8:40. When is the next bus?**

A 8:00

B 8:30

C 9:00

D 9:30

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ANSWER KEY

1. Oranges

2. 19

3. 20

4. 5 mm

5. 6

6. 9 mm

7. 6

8. $\frac{1}{4}$

9. 5

10. 9:00

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