Picture graphs

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you read a chart made of pictures, like a class survey where each smiley face stands for five students who chose that lunch. A pictograph turns a pile of numbers into a picture you can read at a glance, which is why it shows up in classrooms, newspapers, and weather charts. The key tells you what each picture is worth, so you can count up the real totals without a calculator. It is the simplest kind of graph, and the first step to reading the bigger charts you meet everywhere else.



Rule

In a picture graph, each picture stands for a set number of items.

Count the pictures, then multiply by what each picture stands for to find the total.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q 3 apple pictures, each stands for 2 apples

SOLUTION

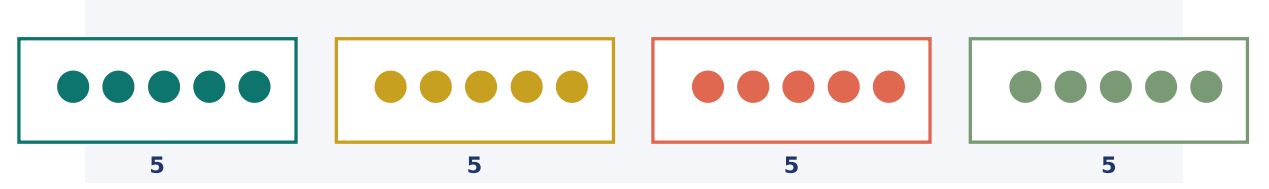
Count the pictures: 3 pictures.

Each picture stands for 2 apples.

Multiply: 3 × 2 = 6 apples in total.

EXAMPLE 2

Q 4 star pictures, each stands for 5 stars



SOLUTION

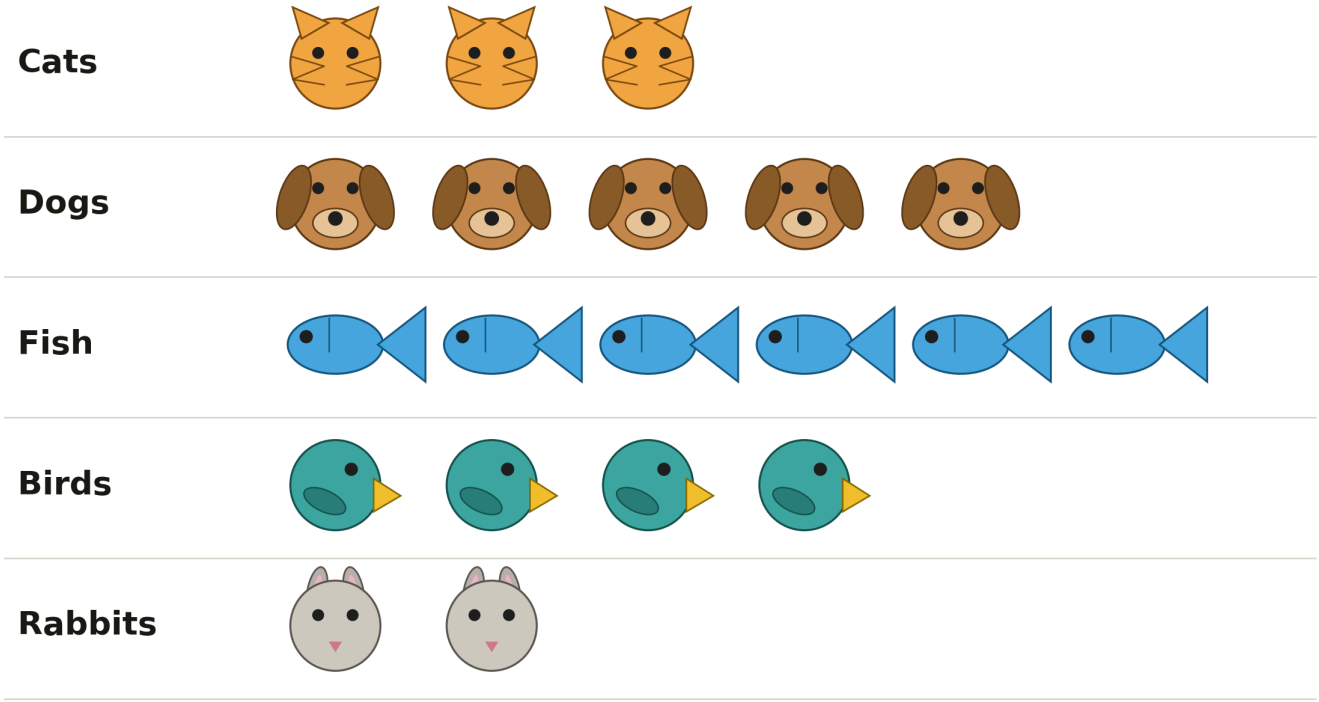
Count the pictures: 4 pictures.

Each picture stands for 5 stars.

Multiply: 4 × 5 = 20 stars in total.

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Practice questions



Pet shop picture graph. Each picture stands for 2 animals.

1 A pet shop keeps a picture graph of its animals. How many cats are there?

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2 **In the same pet shop graph, how many dogs are there?**

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3 **Which animal does the pet shop have the most of?**

A Cats

B Dogs

C Fish

D Birds

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4 **How many fish are in the pet shop?**

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5 How many birds are in the pet shop?

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6 How many rabbits are in the pet shop?

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7 How many cats and rabbits are there together?

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8 How many animals are in the pet shop in all?

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9 How many more dogs than rabbits are there?

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10 If each picture stood for 3 animals instead of 2, how many fish would there be?

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ANSWER KEY

1. 6

2. 10

3. Fish

4. 12

5. 8

6. 4

7. 10

8. 40

9. 6

10. 18

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