

Activities for Improving Data Literacy: Creating Charts

What's the best way to visualize the information?

This activity helps students build skills of working with secondary data and visualizing it in a meaningful way before communicating it with others.

1. Find a public dataset that's a topic of interest to you, such as Real-World Science Resources for Students from Common Sense Education.
2. Use a sheet of graph paper or a digital spreadsheet to organize the data into columns.
3. Choose two types of charts to plot the data (e.g., histogram, bar chart, line chart, pie chart).
4. Label the variables, axes, or other elements of the graph.
5. Add a title and caption for viewers to fully understand the data.
6. Describe the parts of your graph and answer the following questions:

What is the range of the graph? _____

What intervals are used in the graph? _____

What other types of charts could you have used? _____

How does the caption help viewers understand the data? _____

How would a different chart change the viewers' experience? _____

If you were displaying the chart to someone for the first time, what would their takeaways be? _____

