

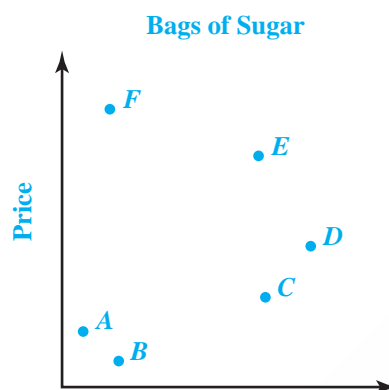
Family Letter

Dear Student and Family Members,

You see graphs everywhere—on the sports page of the newspaper, in advertisements, in your science or social studies books! Most of these graphs are line graphs, bar graphs, or circle graphs. In this chapter, you'll learn about graphs that use points and lines to show patterns and relationships in data.

Here's an example. This graph has a horizontal axis and a vertical axis. It shows the prices of different bags of sugar. From this graph, you can determine facts such as these:

- *D* is the heaviest.
- *B* and *F* are the same weight.
- *C*, *E*, and *D* are heavier than *B*.
- *E* and *F* cost more than *D*.
- *C* would give you a better value for the money than *B*, because you get more sugar for only a little more cost.



In this chapter, you'll draw graphs for many types of situations. Some graphs, like the one above, will not have numerical values. Others will have scales, or sequences of numbers, along each axis.

Vocabulary As you learn about these new kinds of graphs, you'll also learn some new vocabulary terms:

axes

line graph

origin

coordinates

ordered pair

variable

What can you do at home?

During the next few weeks, your student might show interest in graphs. You might help him or her find examples of how graphs are used in everyday life by looking in newspapers and magazines. Encourage your student to determine what the graphs show as well as the values for specific points in the graphs.