



Name _____ Date _____

Choosing an Appropriate Display

(Pages 171–173)

When you choose what type of graph to use, ask yourself these questions:
 What type of information is this? What do I want my graph to show?

Choosing a Display	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bar graph compares different categories of data by showing each as a bar whose length is related to the frequency. • A histogram uses bars to display numerical data that have been organized into equal intervals. • A circle graph compares parts of a set of data to the whole set. • A line plot organizes data using a number line. • A scatter plot is a graph of two sets of data as ordered pairs. Scatter plots may show trends in data.
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EXAMPLE

Choose the most appropriate type of display to compare people’s annual salary to their number of years of education.

You could plot the salaries and years of education as ordered pairs on a scatter plot. You could examine the scatter plot to see if salaries increase with more education.

Try These Together

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| <p>1. Choose the most appropriate type of display for the populations of five different cities in 2000.</p> <p><i>HINT: There are five categories which are not numerical.</i></p> | <p>2. Choose the most appropriate type of display for the votes received by four candidates in an election.</p> <p><i>HINT: Election results are often reported as percents of the whole.</i></p> |
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PRACTICE

Choose the most appropriate type of display for each data set and situation.

- the numbers of students in your math class whose heights are 55 to 59 inches, 60 to 64 inches, 65 to 69 inches, and 70 to 74 inches
- the amount of beef flavored dog food sold compared to all dog food sold
- students’ grades on a math test and the numbers of hours they studied
- the grades of students on a spelling quiz
- numbers of Americans who own 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4 or more cars
- Sports** Max would like to graph the number of points each of his soccer teammates scored over the season compared to the total number of points the whole soccer team scored. Would a circle graph be appropriate for these data? Explain.



9. **Standardized Test Practice** What type of a display would you use to show the number of states with different numbers of national parks?

- A** histogram **B** line plot **C** scatter plot **D** matrix

Answers: 1–7. Sample answers are given. 1. bar graph 2. circle graph 3. histogram 4. circle graph 5. scatter plot 6. line plot or histogram 7. circle graph or bar graph 8. Yes; a circle graph compares parts of a set of data to the whole set. 9. A