



CHART, GRAPH, AND MAP SKILLS ACTIVITY 17

Creating a Pictograph

Learning the Skill

Pictographs make comparing amounts easy. Instead of numbers or statistics, pictographs use pictures or symbols to represent a number of items. For example, a pictograph comparing oil-producing countries could show small oil cans—with each can representing one million gallons of oil. The symbol is always appropriate to the subject in the pictograph. A key lists the symbols and exactly what they represent.

Follow these steps to create a pictograph:

- Research what you are going to compare and select a symbol for that item. For example, suppose you are making a pictograph comparing the population of five countries. On a population pictograph, the item to be compared is people, which are usually shown by a small symbol of a person.
- Decide how many items will be represented by one symbol. The United States, for example, has 290 million people. You could make each “person symbol” stand for 25 million people.
- Put your symbol and how much it represents in a key.
- Now it is time to make your pictograph. First, write down the names of each item to be compared along the left-hand side of the pictograph. In this case, you would list the United States and four other countries.
- Next to each name, draw in the correct number of symbols. Use parts of symbols if you need to, to represent the number. Next to the label “Germany,” you should draw $11\frac{3}{4}$ person symbols, with each symbol representing 25 million people.
- Finish filling in your pictograph for the other countries’ populations.
- Add a title to your pictograph.

CHART, GRAPH, AND MAP SKILLS ACTIVITY 17 (continued)

Creating a Pictograph

Practicing the Skill

Directions: Study the pictograph below, and then answer the questions on the next page.

Immigrants to the United States, 1870*		↑ = 10,000 immigrants
Country of Origin	Number of Immigrants	
Canada	↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↓	
China	↑ ↓	
Germany	↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑	
Great Britain	↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↓	
Ireland	↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↓	
Italy	↓	
Scandinavia	↑ ↑ ↑	

*Selected Countries

Source: Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970

1. What does each symbol of a person represent? _____
2. About how many immigrants from Great Britain came to the United States in 1870?

3. From which country did the largest group of immigrants arrive in 1870?

4. Using the blank table below, create a table based upon the information in the pictograph.

CHART, GRAPH, AND MAP SKILLS ACTIVITY 17 (continued)**Creating a Pictograph****Applying the Skill**

Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, use the statistics from the table below to make a pictograph of the number of immigrants to the United States in 1914. Be sure to include a key within your pictograph. Then answer the questions that follow.

Immigrants to the United States, 1914*	
Country of Origin	Number of Immigrants
Canada	34,139
China	2,502
Germany	35,734
Great Britain	48,729
Ireland	24,688
Italy	283,738
Japan	8,920
Mexico	14,614
Scandinavia	29,391
USSR (and Baltic countries)	255,660

* Selected Countries

Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970*

1. About how many immigrants from the USSR and the Baltic countries came to the United States in 1914?

2. From which country did the largest group of immigrants arrive in 1914?

Answer Key

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Practicing the Skill

1. 10,000 immigrants
2. about 103,000 immigrants
3. Germany
4. Students' tables should be similar to the one below.

Immigrants to the United States, 1870	
Country of Origin	Number of Immigrants
Canada	40,414
China	15,740
Germany	118,225
Great Britain	103,677
Ireland	56,996
Italy	2,801
Scandinavia	30,742

Applying the Skill

Pictograph: Students' pictographs should reflect the statistics given.

1. 255,660
2. Italy