

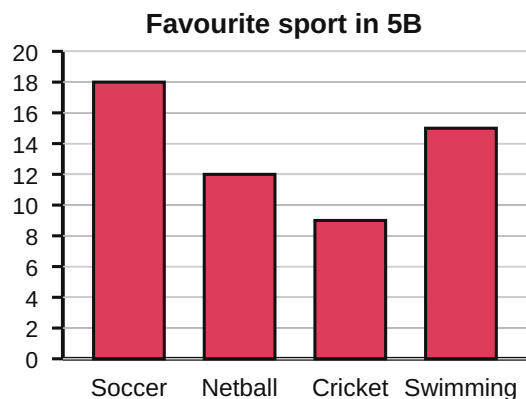
Boost Free Lessons - Year 5 Maths

Lesson 20: Interpreting Column Graphs and Tables

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Worked Example 1

Use the graph below to answer: which sport was most popular, and by how many?



1. Read the title first so you know what the graph is about.
2. Check the scale on the vertical axis. Here each gridline is worth 2 students.
3. Find the tallest column. Soccer is the tallest, at 18 students.
4. The next tallest is swimming at 15, so soccer leads by $18 - 15 = 3$.

Soccer, by 3 students

Worked Example 2

Using the same graph, how many students were surveyed in total?

1. To find a total, you need every column, not just the tallest.
2. Read each one: soccer 18, netball 12, cricket 9, swimming 15.
3. Add them together: $18 + 12 = 30$, and $9 + 15 = 24$.
4. $30 + 24 = 54$.

54 students

Remember: Read the **title** first, then check what each gridline on the **scale** is worth. A scale that does not start at zero can make small differences look large.



Question 1: Use the graph from the worked example to answer the following.

1. Which sport was least popular?
2. How many chose netball?
3. How many more chose soccer than cricket?
4. How many chose either cricket or swimming?
5. What is the difference between the tallest and shortest column?
6. How many did not choose soccer?
7. What is each gridline on the vertical axis worth?
8. Which two sports together equal the soccer total?



Question 2: Answer the following.

1. Why is a title important on a graph?

2. Why must the scale start at zero?

3. What would happen to the graph if the scale went up in 10s instead of 2s?

4. Give one advantage of a table over a column graph.

5. Give one advantage of a column graph over a table.

6. A graph has no labels on the axes. Why is this a problem?



Question 3: Answer the following questions.

1. In a survey, 24 students walk, 18 catch the bus and 8 are driven. How many students in total?
2. Using those figures, how many more walk than are driven?
3. A table shows rainfall of 45 mm, 62 mm, 38 mm and 71 mm over four months. Which month was wettest?
4. Using those figures, find the total rainfall.
5. A graph shows sales rising each month. Would a column graph or a line graph suit this better? Explain.





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Answers: Interpreting Column Graphs and Tables**Question 1**

1. Cricket
2. 12
3. 9
4. 24
5. 9
6. 36
7. 2 students
8. Netball and cricket ($12 + 9 = 21$) is closest, but not equal

Question 2

1. It tells the reader what the data is about, so the numbers have meaning.
2. Starting above zero makes differences between columns look bigger than they really are.
3. The columns would be shorter and the differences harder to see.
4. A table shows exact values, so nothing has to be estimated from a scale.
5. A graph shows differences and patterns at a glance, without reading every number.
6. Without labels you cannot tell what is being counted or in what units.

Question 3

1. 50 students
2. 16 more
3. The month with 71 mm
4. 216 mm
5. A line graph, because it shows a trend over time and makes the rise easy to follow.

