

Reading a Graph

2nd Grade

Picture graphs and bar graphs — and the four questions to ask of any of them.

Every graph answers questions. These four work on any of them.

1 READ THE TITLE

What is this graph about? Never skip this.

2 CHECK THE KEY

On a picture graph one symbol may stand for 2, 5 or 10.

3 READ THE LABELS

What is along the bottom? What runs up the side?

4 COMPARE

Which is most? Which is least? How many more than?

THE FOUR QUESTIONS

Which had the most? · Which had the fewest?

How many altogether? · How many more did A have than B?

A picture graph with a key of 5 is the classic trap. Six symbols means thirty, not six.