Progressions for the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics (draft)

20 June 2011

K–3, Categorical Data; Grades 2–5, Measurement Data*

Overview

As students work with data in Grades K–5, they build foundations for their study of statistics and probability in Grades 6 and beyond, and they strengthen and apply what they are learning in arithmetic. Kindergarten work with data uses counting and order relations. First- and second-graders solve addition and subtraction problems in a data context. In Grades 3–5, work with data is closely related to the number line, fraction concepts, fraction arithmetic, and solving problems that involve the four operations. See Table 1 for these and other notable connections between arithmetic and data work in Grades K–5.

As shown in Table 1, the K–5 data standards run along two paths. One path deals with *categorical data* and focuses on bar graphs as a way to represent and analyze such data. Categorical data comes from sorting objects into categories—for example, sorting a jumble of alphabet blocks to form two stacks, a stack for vowels and a stack for consonants. In this case there are two categories (Vowels and Consonants). Students' work with categorical data in early grades will support their later work with bivariate categorical data and two-way tables in eighth grade (this is discussed further at the end of the Categorical Data Progression).

The other path deals with *measurement data*. As the name suggests, measurement data comes from taking measurements. For example, if every child in a class measures the length of his or her hand to the nearest centimeter, then a set of measurement data is obtained. Other ways to generate measurement data might include measuring liquid volumes with graduated cylinders or measuring room temperatures with a thermometer. In each case, the Standards call for students to represent measurement data with a *line plot*.

*These progressions concern Measurement and Data standards related to data. Other MD standards are discussed in the Geometric Measurement Progression.

This is a type of display that positions the data along the appropriate scale, drawn as a number line diagram. These plots have two names in common use, "dot plot" (because each observation is represented as a dot) and "line plot" (because each observation is represented above a number line diagram).

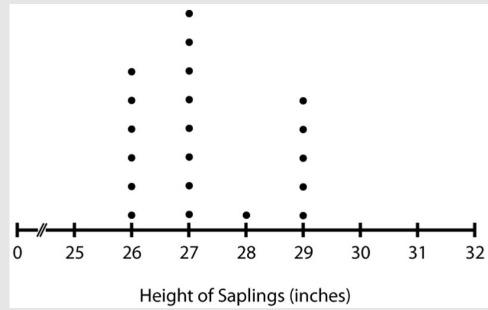
The number line diagram in a line plot corresponds to the scale on the measurement tool used to generate the data. In a context involving measurement of liquid volumes, the scale on a line plot could correspond to the scale etched on a graduated cylinder. In a context involving measurement of temperature, one might imagine a picture in which the scale on the line plot corresponds to the scale printed on a thermometer. In the last two cases, the correspondence may be more obvious when the scale on the line plot is drawn vertically.

Students should understand that the numbers on the scale of a line plot indicate the total number of measurement units from the zero of the scale.

Students need to choose appropriate representations (MP5), labeling axes to clarify the correspondence with the quantities in the situation and specifying units of measure (MP6). Measuring and recording data require attention to precision (MP6). Students should be supported as they learn to construct picture graphs, bar graphs, and line plots. Grid paper should be used for assignments as well as assessments. This may help to minimize errors arising from the need to track across a graph visually to identify values. Also, a template can be superimposed on the grid paper, with blanks provided for the student to write in the graph title, scale labels, category labels, legend, and so on. It might also help if students write relevant numbers on graphs during problem solving.

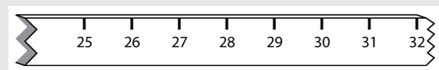
In students' work with data, context is important. As the *Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education Report* notes, "data are not just numbers, they are numbers with a context. In mathematics, context obscures structure. In data analysis, context provides meaning."• In keeping with this perspective, students should work with data in the context of science, social science, health, and other subjects, always interpreting data plots in terms of the data they represent (MP2).

Example of a line plot



Note that the break in the scale between 0 and 25 indicates that marks between 0 and 25 are not shown.

Example of a scale on a measurement tool



• The *Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education Report* was published in 2007 by the American Statistical Association, http://www.amstat.org/education/gaise.

Table 1: Some notable connections to K–5 data work

Grade	Standard	Notable Connections
	Categorical data	
K	K.MD.3. Classify objects into given categories, count the number of objects in each category and sort[1] the categories by count. *Limit category counts to be less than or equal to 10.*	• K.CC. Counting to tell the number of objects • K.CC. Comparing numbers
1	1.MD.4. Organize, represent, and interpret data with up to three categories; ask and answer questions about the total number of data points, how many in each category, and how many more or less are in one category than in another.	• 1.OA. Problems involving addition and subtraction ◦ put-together, take-apart, compare ◦ problems that call for addition of three whole numbers
2	2.MD.10. Draw a picture graph and a bar graph (with single-unit scale) to represent a data set with up to four categories. Solve simple put-together, take-apart, and compare problems using information presented in a bar graph.	• 2.OA. Problems involving addition and subtraction ◦ put-together, take-apart, compare
3	3.MD.3. Draw a scaled picture graph and a scaled bar graph to represent a data set with several categories. Solve one- and two-step "how many more" and "how many less" problems using information presented in scaled bar graphs. *For example, draw a bar graph in which each square in the bar graph might represent 5 pets.*	• 3.OA.3. Problems involving multiplication • 3.OA.8 Two-step problems using the four operations • 3.G.1 Categories of shapes
	Measurement data	
2	2.MD.9. Generate measurement data by measuring lengths of several objects to the nearest whole unit, or by making repeated measurements of the same object. Show the measurements by making a line plot, where the horizontal scale is marked off in whole-number units.	• 1.MD.2. Length measurement • 2.MD.6. Number line
3	3.MD.4. Generate measurement data by measuring lengths using rulers marked with halves and fourths of an inch. Show the data by making a line plot, where the horizontal scale is marked off in appropriate units–whole numbers, halves, or quarters.	• 3.NF.2. Fractions on a number line
4	4.MD.4. Make a line plot to display a data set of measurements in fractions of a unit $\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}\right)$. Solve problems involving addition and subtraction of fractions by using information presented in line plots. *For example, from a line plot find and interpret the difference in length between the longest and shortest specimens in an insect collection.*	• 4.NF.3,4. Problems involving fraction arithmetic
5	5.MD.2. Make a line plot to display a data set of measurements in fractions of a unit $\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}\right)$. Use operations on fractions for this grade to solve problems involving information presented in line plots. *For example, given different measurements of liquid in identical beakers, find the amount of liquid each beaker would contain if the total amount in all the beakers were redistributed equally.*	• 5.NF.1,2,4,6,7. Problems involving fraction arithmetic

[1] Here, "sort the categories" means "order the categories," i.e., show the categories in order according to their respective counts.

Categorical Data

Kindergarten

Students in Kindergarten classify objects into categories, initially specified by the teacher and perhaps eventually elicited from students. For example, in a science context, the teacher might ask students in the class to sort pictures of various organisms into two piles: organisms with wings and those without wings. Students can then count the number of specimens in each pile.[K.CC.5] Students can use these category counts and their understanding of cardinality to say whether there are more specimens with wings or without wings.[K.CC.6,K.CC.7]

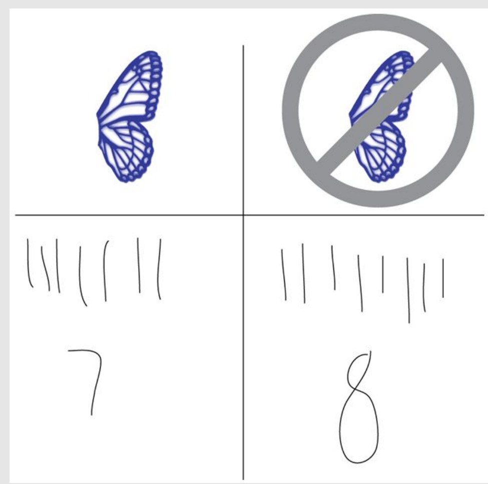
A single group of specimens might be classified in different ways, depending on which attribute has been identified as the attribute of interest. For example, some specimens might be insects, while others are not insects. Some specimens might live on land, while others live in water.

K.CC.5 Count to answer "how many?" questions about as many as 20 things arranged in a line, a rectangular array, or a circle, or as many as 10 things in a scattered configuration; given a number from 1–20, count out that many objects.

K.CC.6 Identify whether the number of objects in one group is greater than, less than, or equal to the number of objects in another group, e.g., by using matching and counting strategies.

K.CC.7 Compare two numbers between 1 and 10 presented as written numerals.

Sorting categorical data



The marks represent individual data points. The two category counts, 7 and 8, are a numerical summary *of the data.*

Grade 1

Students in Grade 1 begin to organize and represent categorical data. For example, if a collection of specimens is sorted into two piles based on which specimens have wings and which do not, students might represent the two piles of specimens on a piece of paper, by making a group of marks for each pile, as shown below (the marks could also be circles, for example). The groups of marks should be clearly labeled to reflect the attribute in question.

The work shown in the figure is the result of an intricate process. At first, we have before us a jumble of specimens with many attributes. Then there is a narrowing of attention to a single attribute (wings or not). Then the objects might be arranged into piles. The arranging of objects into piles is then mirrored in the arranging of marks into groups. In the end, each mark represents an object; its position in one column or the other indicates whether or not that object has a given attribute.

There is no single correct way to represent categorical data-and the Standards do not require Grade 1 students to use any specific format. However, students should be familiar with mark schemes like the one shown in the figure. Another format that might be useful in Grade 1 is a picture graph in which one picture represents one object. (Note that picture graphs are not an expectation in the Standards until Grade 2.) If different students devise different ways to represent the same data set, then the class might discuss relative strengths and weaknesses of each scheme (MP5).

Students' data work in Grade 1 has important connections to addition and subtraction, as noted in Table 1. Students in Grade 1 can ask and answer questions about categorical data based on a representation of the data. For example, with reference to the figure above, a student might ask how many specimens there were altogether, representing this problem by writing an equation such as $7 + 8 = \square$. Students can also ask and answer questions leading to other kinds of addition and subtraction problems (1.OA), such as compare problems or problems involving the addition of three numbers (for situations with three categories).

Grade 2

Students in Grade 2 draw a picture graph and a bar graph (with single-unit scale) to represent a data set with up to four categories. They solve simple put-together, take-apart, and compare problems using information presented in a bar graph.[2.MD.10, 2.OA.1]

The illustration shows an activity in which students make a bar graph to represent categorical data, then solve addition and subtraction problems based on the data. Students might use scissors to cut out the pictures of each organism and then sort the organisms into piles by category. Category counts might be recorded efficiently in the form of a table.

A bar graph representing categorical data displays no additional information beyond the category counts. In such a graph, the bars are a way to make the category counts easy to interpret visually. Thus, the word problem in part 4 could be solved without drawing a bar graph, just by using the category counts. The problem could even be cast entirely in words, without the accompanying picture: "There are 9 insects, 4 spiders, 13 vertebrates, and 2 organisms of other kinds. How many more spiders would there have to be in order for the number of spiders to equal the number of vertebrates?" Of course, in solving this problem, students would not need to participate in categorizing data or representing it.

Scales in bar graphs Consider the two bar graphs shown to the right, in which the bars are oriented vertically. (Bars in a bar graph can also be oriented horizontally, in which case the following discussion would be modified in the obvious way.) Both of these bar graphs represent the same data set.

These examples illustrate that the horizontal axis in a bar graph of categorical data is not a scale of any kind; position along the horizontal axis has no numerical meaning. Thus, the horizontal position and ordering of the bars are not determined by the data.•

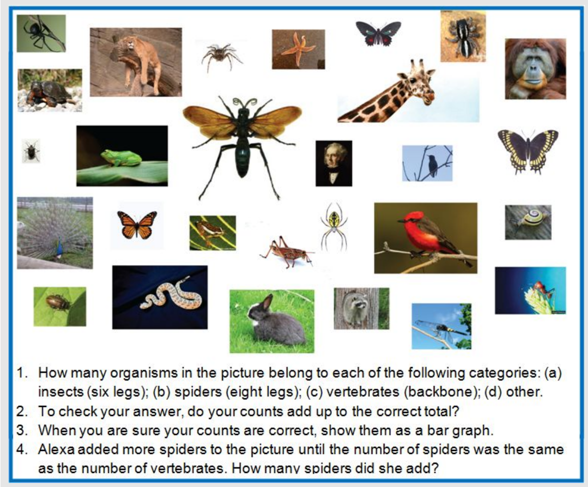
However, the vertical axes in these graphs do have numerical meaning. In fact, the vertical axes in these graphs are segments of number line diagrams. We might think of the vertical axis as a "count scale" (a scale showing counts in whole numbers)—as opposed to a measurement scale, which can be subdivided into fractions of a measurement unit.

Because the count scale in a bar graph is a segment of a number line diagram, when we answer a question such as "How many

2.MD.10 Draw a picture graph and a bar graph (with single-unit scale) to represent a data set with up to four categories. Solve simple put-together, take-apart, and compare problems using information presented in a bar graph.

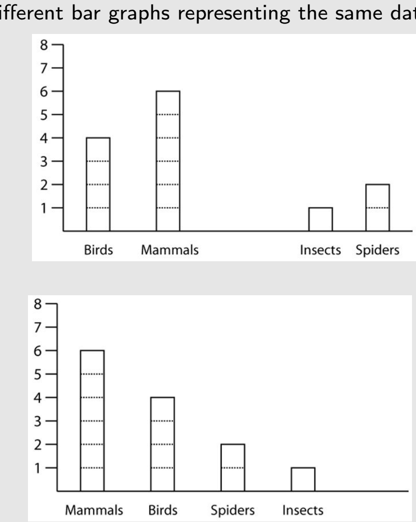
2.OA.1 Use addition and subtraction within 100 to solve one- and two-step word problems involving situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing, with unknowns in all positions, e.g., by using drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.

Activity for representing categorical data



Students might reflect on the way in which the category counts in part 1 of the activity enable them to efficiently solve the word problem in part 4. (The word problem in part 4 would be difficult to solve directly using just the array of images.)

Different bar graphs representing the same data set



• To minimize potential confusion, it might help to avoid presenting students with examples of categorical data in which the categories are named using numerals, e.g., "Candidate 1," "Candidate 2," "Candidate 3." This will ensure that the only numbers present in the display are found along the count scale.

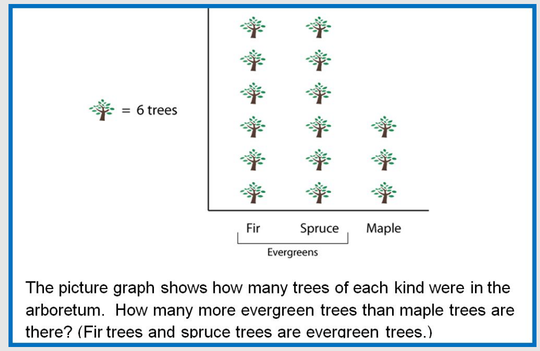
more birds are there than spiders?" we are finding differences on a number line diagram.[2.MD.6]

When drawing bar graphs on grid paper, the tick marks on the count scale should be drawn at intersections of the gridlines. The tops of the bars should reach the respective gridlines of the appropriate tick marks. When drawing picture graphs on grid paper, the pictures representing the objects should be drawn in the squares of the grid paper.

Students could discuss ways in which bar orientation (horizontal or vertical), order, thickness, spacing, shading, colors, and so forth make the bar graphs easier or more difficult to interpret. By middle school, students could make thoughtful design choices about data displays, rather than just accepting the defaults in a software program (MP5).

2.MD.6 Represent whole numbers as lengths from 0 on a number line diagram with equally spaced points corresponding to the numbers 0, 1, 2, . . . , and represent whole-number sums and differences within 100 on a number line diagram.

A problem about interpreting a scaled picture graph



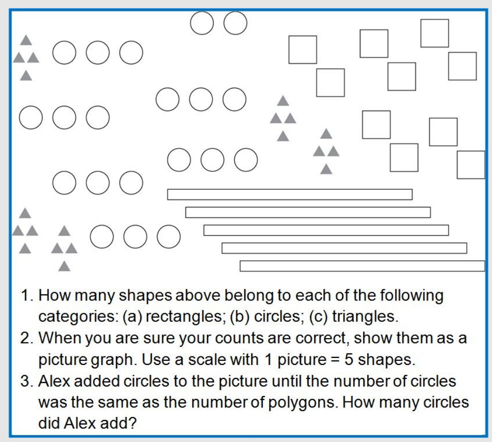
Grade 3

In Grade 3, the most important development in data representation for categorical data is that students now draw picture graphs in which each picture represents more than one object, and they draw bar graphs in which the height of a given bar in tick marks must be multiplied by the scale factor in order to yield the number of objects in the given category. These developments connect with the emphasis on multiplication in this grade.

At the end of Grade 3, students can draw a scaled picture graph or a scaled bar graph to represent a data set with several categories (six or fewer categories).[3.MD.3] They can solve one- and two-step "how many more" and "how many less" problems using information presented in scaled bar graphs.[3.OA.3,3.OA.8] See the examples in the margin, one of which involves categories of shapes.[3.G.1] As in Grade 2, category counts might be recorded efficiently in the form of a table.

Students can gather categorical data in authentic contexts, including contexts arising in their study of science, history, health, and so on. Of course, students do not have to generate the data every time they work on making bar graphs and picture graphs. That would be too time-consuming. After some experiences in generating the data, most work in producing bar graphs and picture graphs can be done by providing students with data sets. The Standards in Grades 1–3 do not require students to gather categorical data.

Problems involving categorical data



3.MD.3 Draw a scaled picture graph and a scaled bar graph to represent a data set with several categories. Solve one- and two-step "how many more" and "how many less" problems using information presented in scaled bar graphs.

3.OA.3 Use multiplication and division within 100 to solve word problems in situations involving equal groups, arrays, and measurement quantities,. . .

3.OA.8 Solve two-step word problems using the four operations. Represent these problems using equations with a letter standing for the unknown quantity . . .

3.G.1 Understand that shapes in different categories (e.g., rhombuses, rectangles, and others) may share attributes (e.g., having four sides), and that the shared attributes can define a larger category (e.g., quadrilaterals). Recognize rhombuses, rectangles, and squares as examples of quadrilaterals . . .

Where the Categorical Data Progression is heading

Students' work with categorical data in early grades will develop into later work with bivariate categorical data and two-way tables in eighth grade. "Bivariate categorical data" are data that are categorized according to two attributes. For example, if there is an outbreak of stomach illness on a cruise ship, then passengers might be sorted in two different ways: by determining who got sick and who didn't, and by determining who ate the shellfish and who didn't. This double categorization—normally shown in the form of a two-way table—might show a strong positive or negative association, in which case it might used to support or contest (but not prove or disprove) a claim about whether the shellfish was the cause of the illness.[8.SP.4]

[8.SP.4]Understand that patterns of association can also be seen in bivariate categorical data by displaying frequencies and relative frequencies in a two-way table. Construct and interpret a two-way table summarizing data on two categorical variables collected from the same subjects. Use relative frequencies calculated for rows or columns to describe possible association between the two variables.

Measurement Data

Grade 2

Students in Grade 2 measure lengths to generate a set of measurement data.[2.MD.1] For example, each student might measure the length of his or her arm in centimeters, or every student might measure the height of a statue in inches. (Students might also generate their own ideas about what to measure.) The resulting data set will be a list of observations, for example as shown in the margin on the following page for the scenario of 28 students each measuring the height of a statue. (This is a larger data set than students would normally be expected to work with in elementary grades.)

2.MD.1 Measure the length of an object by selecting and using appropriate tools such as rulers, yardsticks, meter sticks, and measuring tapes.

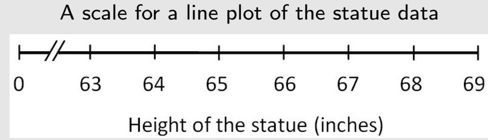
How might one summarize this data set or display it visually? Because students in Grade 2 are already familiar with categorical data and bar graphs, a student might find it natural to summarize this data set by viewing it in terms of categories—the categories in question being the six distinct height values which appear in the data (63 inches, 64 inches, 65 inches, 66 inches, 67 inches, and 69 inches). For example, the student might want to say that there are four observations in the "category" of 67 inches. However, it is important to recognize that 64 inches is not a category like "spiders." Unlike "spiders," 63 inches is a numerical value with a measurement unit. That difference is why the data in this table are called measurement data.

A display of measurement data must present the measured values with their appropriate magnitudes and spacing on the measurement scale in question (length, temperature, liquid capacity, etc.). One method for doing this is to make a *line plot*. This activity connects with other work students are doing in measurement in Grade 2: representing whole numbers on number line diagrams, and representing sums and differences on such diagrams.[2.MD.5,2.MD.6]

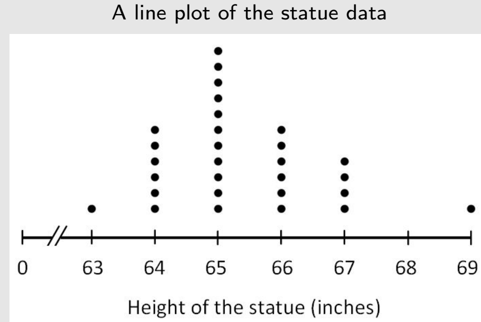
2.MD.5 Use addition and subtraction within 100 to solve word problems involving lengths that are given in the same units, e.g., by using drawings (such as drawings of rulers) and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.

2.MD.6 Represent whole numbers as lengths from 0 on a number line diagram with equally spaced points corresponding to the numbers 0, 1, 2, . . . , and represent whole-number sums and differences within 100 on a number line diagram.

A scale for a line plot of the statue data



A line plot of the statue data



To make a line plot from the data in the table, the student can ascertain the greatest and least values in the data: 63 inches and 69 inches. The student can draw a segment of a number line diagram that includes these extremes, with tick marks indicating specific values on the measurement scale.

Note that the value 68 inches, which was not present in the data set, has been written in proper position midway between 67 inches and 69 inches. (This need to fill in gaps does not exist for a categorical data set; there no "gap" between categories such as fish and spiders!)

Having drawn the number line diagram, the student can proceed through the data set recording each observation by drawing a symbol, such as a dot, above the proper tick mark. If a particular data value appears many times in the data set, dots will "pile up" above that value. There is no need to sort the observations, or to do any counting of them, before producing the line plot. (In fact, one could even assemble the line plot as the data are being collected, at the expense of having a record of who made what measurement. Students might discuss whether such a record is valuable and why.)

Students might enjoy discussing and interpreting visual features of line plots, such as the "outlier" value of 69 inches in this line plot. (Did student #13 make a serious error in measuring the statue's height? Or in fact is student #13 the only person in the class who measured the height correctly?) However, in Grade 2 the only requirement of the Standards dealing with measurement data is that students generate measurement data and build line plots to display the resulting data sets. (Students do not have to generate the data every time they work on making line plots. That would be too time-consuming. After some experiences in generating the data, most work in producing line plots can be done by providing students with data sets.)

Grid paper might not be as useful for drawing line plots as it is for bar graphs, because the count scale on a line plot is seldom shown for the small data sets encountered in the elementary grades. Additionally, grid paper is usually based on a square grid, but the count scale and the measurement scale of a line plot are conceptually distinct, and there is no need for the measurement unit on the measurement scale to be drawn the same size as the counting unit on the count scale.

Grade 3

In Grade 3, students are beginning to learn fraction concepts (3.NF). They understand fraction equivalence in simple cases, and they use visual fraction models to represent and order fractions. Grade 3 students also measure lengths using rulers marked with halves and fourths of an inch. They use their developing knowledge of fractions and number lines to extend their work from the previous grade by working with measurement data involving fractional measurement values.

For example, every student in the class might measure the height of a bamboo shoot growing in the classroom, leading to the data set shown in the table. (Again, this illustration shows a larger data set than students would normally work with in elementary grades.)

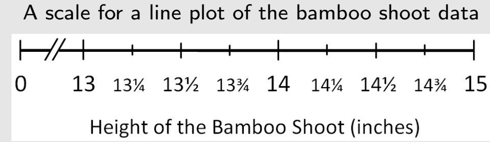
To make a line plot from the data in the table, the student can ascertain the greatest and least values in the data: $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches and $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The student can draw a segment of a number line diagram that includes these extremes, with tick marks indicating specific values on the measurement scale. This is just like part of the scale on a ruler.

Having drawn the number line diagram, the student can proceed through the data set recording each observation by drawing a symbol, such as a dot, above the proper tick mark. As with Grade 2 line plots, if a particular data value appears many times in the data set, dots will "pile up" above that value. There is no need to sort the

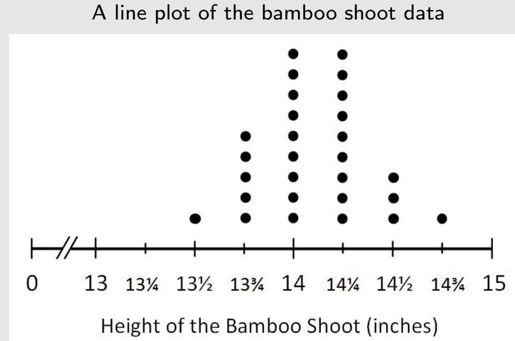
Students' measurements of a statue and of a bamboo shoot

Statue measurements		Bamboo shoot measurements	
Student's initials	Student's measured value (inches)	Student's initials	Height value (inches)
W.B.	64	W.B.	13 3/4
D.W.	65	D.W.	14 1/2
H.D.	65	H.D.	14 1/4
G.W.	65	G.W.	14 3/4
V.Y.	67	V.Y.	14 1/4
T.T.	66	T.T.	14 1/2
D.F.	67	D.F.	14
B.H.	65	B.H.	13 1/2
H.H.	63	H.H.	14 1/4
V.H.	64	V.H.	14 1/4
I.O.	64	I.O.	14 1/4
W.N.	65	W.N.	14
B.P.	69	B.P.	14 1/2
V.A.	65	V.A.	13 3/4
H.L.	66	H.L.	14
O.M.	64	O.M.	13 3/4
L.E.	65	L.E.	14 1/4
M.J.	66	M.J.	13 3/4
T.D.	66	T.D.	14 1/4
K.P.	64	K.P.	14
H.N.	65	H.N.	14
W.M.	67	W.M.	14
C.Z.	64	C.Z.	13 3/4
J.I.	66	J.I.	14
M.S.	66	M.S.	14 1/4
T.C.	65	T.C.	14
G.V.	67	G.V.	14
O.F.	65	O.F.	14 1/4

A scale for a line plot of the bamboo shoot data



A line plot of the bamboo shoot data



observations, or to do any counting of them, before producing the line plot.

Students can pose questions about data presented in line plots, such as how many students obtained measurements larger than $14\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Grades 4 and 5

Grade 4 students learn elements of fraction equivalence[4.NF.1] and arithmetic, including multiplying a fraction by a whole number[4.NF.4] and adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators.[4.NF.3] Students can use these skills to solve problems, including problems that arise from analyzing line plots. For example, with reference to the line plot above, students might find the difference between the greatest and least values in the data. (In solving such problems, students may need to label the measurement scale in eighths so as to produce like denominators. Decimal data can also be used in this grade.)

Grade 5 students grow in their skill and understanding of fraction arithmetic, including multiplying a fraction by a fraction,[5.NF.4] dividing a unit fraction by a whole number or a whole number by a unit fraction,[4.NF.7] and adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators.[5.NF.1] Students can use these skills to solve problems,[5.NF.2,5.NF.6,5.NF.7c] including problems that arise from analyzing line plots. For example, given five graduated cylinders with different measures of liquid in each, students might find the amount of liquid each cylinder would contain if the total amount in all the cylinders were redistributed equally. (Students in Grade 6 will view the answer to this question as the mean value for the data set in question.)

As in earlier grades, students should work with data in science and other subjects. Grade 5 students working in these contexts should be able to give deeper interpretations of data than in earlier grades, such as interpretations that involve informal recognition of pronounced differences in populations. This prefigures the work they will do in middle school involving distributions, comparisons of populations, and inference.

Where the Measurement Data Progression is heading

Connection to Statistics and Probability By the end of Grade 5, students should be comfortable making line plots for measurement data and analyzing data shown in the form of a line plot. In Grade 6, students will take an important step toward statistical reasoning per se when they approach line plots as pictures of distributions with features such as clustering and outliers.

Students' work with line plots during the elementary grades develops in two distinct ways during middle school. The first development comes in sixth grade,[6.SP.4] when *histograms* are used.[1] Like

[4.NF.1] Explain why a fraction a/b is equivalent to a fraction $(n \times a)/(n \times b)$ by using visual fraction models, with attention to how the number and size of the parts differ even though the two fractions themselves are the same size. Use this principle to recognize and generate equivalent fractions.

[4.NF.4] Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication to multiply a fraction by a whole number.

[4.NF.3] Understand a fraction a/b with $a > 1$ as a sum of fractions $1/b$.

[5.NF.4] Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication to multiply a fraction or whole number by a fraction.

[4.NF.7] Compare two decimals to hundredths by reasoning about their size. Recognize that comparisons are valid only when the two decimals refer to the same whole. Record the results of comparisons with the symbols $>$, $=$, or $<$, and justify the conclusions, e.g., by using a visual model.

[5.NF.1] Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators (including mixed numbers) by replacing given fractions with equivalent fractions in such a way as to produce an equivalent sum or difference of fractions with like denominators.

[5.NF.2] Solve word problems involving addition and subtraction of fractions referring to the same whole, including cases of unlike denominators, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem. Use benchmark fractions and number sense of fractions to estimate mentally and assess the reasonableness of answers.

[5.NF.6] Solve real world problems involving multiplication of fractions and mixed numbers, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem.

[5.NF.7c] Apply and extend previous understandings of division to divide unit fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by unit fractions.

c Solve real world problems involving division of unit fractions by non-zero whole numbers and division of whole numbers by unit fractions, e.g., by using visual fraction models and equations to represent the problem.

[6.SP.4] Display numerical data in plots on a number line, including dot plots, histograms, and box plots.

line plots, histograms have a measurement scale and a count scale; thus, a histogram is a natural evolution of a line plot and is used for similar kinds of data (univariate measurement data, the kind of data discussed above).

The other evolution of line plots in middle school is arguably more important. It involves the graphing of bivariate measurement data.[8.SP.1-3] "Bivariate measurement data" are data that represent two measurements. For example, if you take a temperature reading every ten minutes, then every data point is a measurement of temperature as well as a measurement of time. Representing two measurements requires two measurement scales—or in other words, a coordinate plane in which the two axes are each marked in the relevant measurement units. Representations of bivariate measurement data in the coordinate plane are called *scatter plots*. In the case where one axis is a time scale, they are called *time graphs* or *line graphs*. Time graphs can be used to visualize trends over time, and scatter plots can be used to discover associations between measured variables in general.

8.SP.1 Construct and interpret scatter plots for bivariate measurement data to investigate patterns of association between two quantities. Describe patterns such as clustering, outliers, positive or negative association, linear association, and nonlinear association.

8.SP.2 Know that straight lines are widely used to model relationships between two quantitative variables. For scatter plots that suggest a linear association, informally fit a straight line, and informally assess the model fit by judging the closeness of the data points to the line.

8.SP.3 Use the equation of a linear model to solve problems in the context of bivariate measurement data, interpreting the slope and intercept.

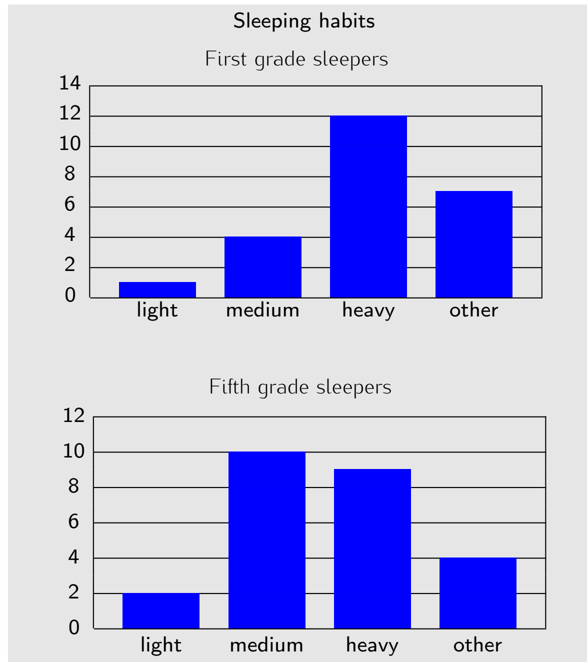
Connection to the Number System The Standards do not explicitly require students to create time graphs. However, it might be considered valuable to expose students to time series data and to time graphs as part of their work in meeting standard 6.NS.8. For example, students could create time graphs of temperature measured each hour over a 24-hour period, where, to ensure a strong connection to rational numbers, temperature values might cross from positive to negative during the night and back to positive the next day. It is traditional to connect ordered pairs with line segments in such a graph, not in order to make any claims about the actual temperature value at unmeasured times, but simply to aid the eye in perceiving trends.

6.NS.8 Solve real-world and mathematical problems by graphing points in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane. Include use of coordinates and absolute value to find distances between points with the same first coordinate or the same second coordinate.

[1] To display a set of measurement data with a histogram, specify a set of nonoverlapping intervals along the measurement scale. Then, instead of showing each individual measurement as a dot, use a bar oriented along the count scale to indicate the number of measurements lying within each interval on the measurement scale. A histogram is thus a little like a bar graph for categorical data, except that the "categories" are successive intervals along a measurement scale. (Note that the Standards follow the GAISE report in reserving the term "categorical data" for non-numerical categories. In the Standards, as in GAISE (see p. 35), bar graphs are for categorical data with non-numerical categories, while histograms are for measurement data which has been grouped by intervals along the measurement scale.)

Appendix: Additional Examples

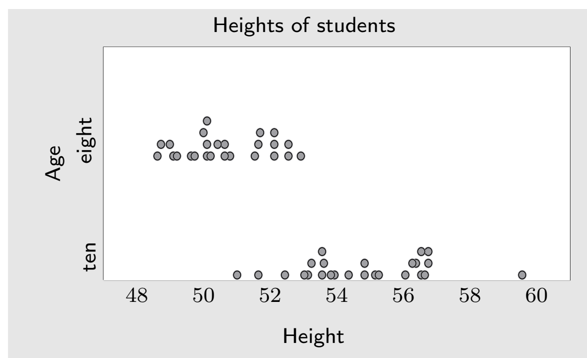
These examples show some rich possibilities for data work in K–8. The examples are not shown by grade level because each includes some aspects that go beyond the expectations stated in the Standards.



Example 1. Comparing bar graphs

Are younger students lighter sleepers than older students? To study this question a class first agreed on definitions for light, medium and heavy sleepers and then collected data from first and fifth grade students on their sleeping habits. The results are shown in the margin.

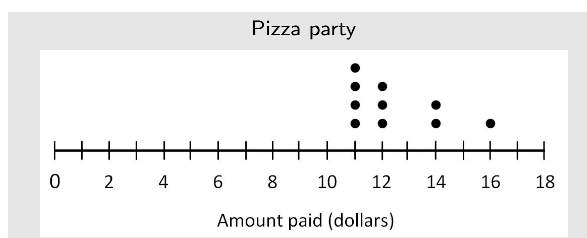
How do the patterns differ? What is the typical value for first graders? What is the typical value for fifth graders? Which of these groups appears to be the heavier sleepers?



Example 2. Comparing line plots

Fourth grade students interested in seeing how heights of students change for kids around their age measured the heights of a sample of eight-year-olds and a sample of ten-year-olds. Their data are plotted in the margin.

Describe the key differences between the heights of these two age groups. What would you choose as the typical height of an eight-year-old? A ten-year-old? What would you say is the typical number of inches of growth from age eight to age ten?



Example 3. Fair share averaging

Ten students decide to have a pizza party and each is asked to bring his or her favorite pizza. The amount paid (in dollars) for each pizza is shown in the plot to the right.

Each of the ten is asked to contribute an equal amount (his or her fair share) to the cost of the pizza. Where does that fair share amount lie on the plot? Is it closer to the smaller values or the large one? Now, two more students show up for the party and they have contributed no pizza. Plot their values on the graph and calculate a new fair share. Where does it lie on the plot? How many more students without pizza would have to show up to bring the fair share cost below $8.00?