

Finding Things Out

QCA Unit: 3C

Lesson 5 of 6 - What's in the Charts?

Learning objective: I can.....Use a database to make a bar chart

Resources: Print out of Cards.pdf

Graph paper/template

Support files: Survey database and Cards.pdf

Setting the scene: (5 mins)

Share the learning objective with the class.


Explain that today they are going to look at a how they can create a bar chart using the Survey database used in the previous lesson.

Main Input (20 mins)

Away from the computer: Distribute the record cards from 'Cards.pdf.' Ask the class who has blue eyes? Collect in these records, count them with the class, record the number on the flip chart and stack them up on top of each other. Repeat this process for all the other eye colours.

Explain to the class that we need to make a bar chart of our findings. Work through the process of deciding on axis, the scale of the axis depending on the maximum total, labeling the axis and then drawing the bars on the chart to represent the findings.

At the computer: Turn on the monitor and remind the class how to login to the **Survey**

database. Demonstrate to the class where to find the **Display data as graphs or charts**  option on the main menu.

In the next window we are asked to select the field we want.

When we click on **Plot** a complete bar chart is then displayed.

Ask 1 or 2 children to come up and go through the process.

Activity – short focused task (10-20 mins)

In pairs or small groups children create a bar chart and print it off. They then have to think of three questions to display with their bar chart.

Review and recall (10 mins)

Ask groups to swap their graphs and questions and try and find the answers. Bring the class together and review the learning objective. Ask similar questions to those below. Reiterate the key vocabulary listed below.

Explain that in the next lesson they are going to be using a database about animals. They will then add some additional information on the database and answer some questions using the search and/or graph options.

Key questions to ask and to display: Is it easier/ quicker to find the answers to questions using a computer? Is it possible to graph any of the information in a bar chart? If not why not?

Vocabulary: Graph, Bar chart.

Extension Activity: To extend the more able children demonstrate how a search can be performed and then a graph made of these results. Eg you can create a bar chart showing the eye colour of just the girls by searching for females and then choosing eye colour from the field in the Graph facility.

Assessment Opportunities: Can the children use a database to make a bar chart?

What comes next: Integrating Task – A database on Animals – Lesson 6 ‘Is it a bird? Is it a fish? Or is it...’