

# Selecting a Type of Graph

Are the data in categories?  
Do the data show trends?  
Which do you want to emphasize?

I want to emphasize the categories.

I want to emphasize the trends.

Are you comparing two sets of data?

Is it reasonable to imagine data values between those you have recorded?

No

Yes

No

Yes

A double bar graph might be appropriate.

Are the data values numerical? Can you organize them by place value? Are there 10 to 20 values?

A broken-line graph might be appropriate.

A continuous line graph might be appropriate.

No

Yes

A bar graph or a pictograph might be appropriate.

Watermelon	
Orange	
Apple	

A stem-and-leaf plot might be appropriate.

Stem	Leaves
2	0 0 1 2 5 5
3	0 3 4 8 9
4	1 3 5 5 8 9
5	0 2 3 3 9 9

(A bar graph or a pictograph might also be appropriate)