

Making a bar chart with a chosen scale

MODULE 9 · DATA AND CHANCE DATA & CHANCE

HOW TO ANSWER TODAY

- **Read a bar chart.** Read the top of each bar. Check the y-axis scale to see what each grid line is worth.
Each grid line = 5, bar reaches the 4th line → value is 20
- **Y-axis scale.** Pick a step that makes the tallest bar fit but isn't so small the chart is huge.
Tallest = 75 → use steps of 10 (about 8 grid lines), not 1 (75 lines)

STRETCH PROBLEMS

- Mr Ó Broin made a bar chart of the laps each group ran in PE across the month. The Apple group ran **12** laps, Pear **20**, Orange **39**, Banana **31** and Plum **35**. Which group ran the most laps?
- For a whole-school healthy-eating week, 3rd and 4th class made a bar chart of everyone's favourite fruit. The chart shows Apple: **30**, Pear: **14**, Orange: **8**, Banana: **27** and Plum: **29**. How many pupils took part in the survey altogether?
- During PE this month, 4th class made a bar chart of favourite fruits from their lunchboxes. It shows Apple: **23**, Pear: **35**, Orange: **9**, Banana: **12** and Plum: **27**. By how much does the Pear bar differ from the Orange bar?
- 5th class made a bar chart of the fruit they eat at lunch over a week. The tally shows Apple: **13**, Pear: **37**, Orange: **24**, Banana: **11** and Plum: **21**. Which fruit did the pupils eat the most?
- For the October reading challenge, 3rd and 4th class are drawing a bar chart, and the tallest bar shows **228** books read. Aoife needs to choose a y-axis step from **1**, **5** or **10** so the chart has about **10** to **15** grid lines from **0** up to the top. Which step should she pick?

INVESTIGATE

Chart a class favourite

Pose one clear question your class will enjoy (favourite break snack, GAA county, or rainy-day game). Collect tallies, choose a **sensible scale** that fits your biggest value, and draw the bar chart. What does it show at a glance, and what would you ask next?

