

Constructing and interpreting bar and multiple bar charts

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

A multiple bar chart shows two groups side by side for each category so you can compare them on one set of axes.

- Two bars for each travel choice - one for 6th Class, one for 5th Class - sitting beside each other for walk, cycle and car.
- Going up in 5s: 0, 5, 10, 15, 20 when the biggest count is around 18.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

BUILDING A MULTIPLE BAR CHART FOR TRAVEL DATA

- 1 Draw the axes and label the categories walk, cycle and car along the bottom.
- 2 Choose a scale going up in 5s to 30 and mark it on the side.
- 3 Draw two bars side by side for each category using the numbers 18 and 22 for walk, 9 and 14 for cycle, 15 and 12 for car.
- 4 Add a key to show which colour is 6th Class and which is 5th Class.

ANSWER KEY

Scaffold: visual check on the page

Q1: Walk: 18 (6th), 22 (5th); Cycle: 9 (6th), 14 (5th)

Q2: Walk: 45/38; Cycle: 27/32; Car: 52/41 (6th/5th)

a) Always — You need the key to tell the two groups apart when bars are side by side.

b) Always — The biggest gap between paired bars shows the largest difference for that category.

c) Sometimes — It can show two or more groups but two is common in these lessons.

d) Always — The scale depends on the largest number not on how many groups there are.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: step of 10

S2: step of 10

S3: step of 10

S4: step of 5

S5: step of 5