Year 5 into Year 6 mathematics:

Reading bar charts and tables

Key learning

Interpret bar charts and tables and use them to locate information and answer questions.

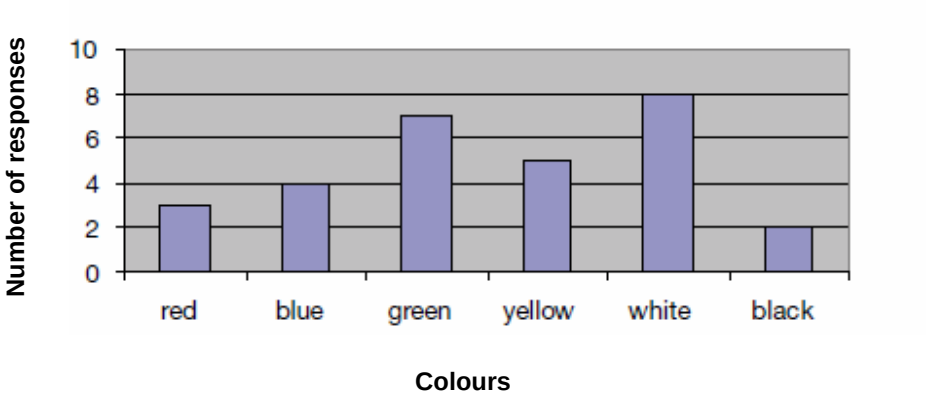
Check that your child can:

- read a scale on a bar chart;
- use the scale to read the values the bars in a bar chart represent and explain how they did this;
- find data in a table and use the information to answer questions.

A group of children asked 36 adults which of six colours they thought was most restful in a room. Their results are in the bar chart below. Put the colour choices in order of popularity.

- How many more adults chose green than black?
- How many adults are represented by the bar chart?
- How many adults refused to make a choice?

Restful colour choice



Notes for parents/carers

There are lots of opportunities to find and read bar charts in newspapers or on the Internet. Tables of information often appear in leaflets found in shops or distributed by post.

Look out for local takeaway charges, tables of charges to parks and cinemas or tables of information in guides or magazines. For example, use a tourist information leaflet to work out costs of visits.

Visiting a water park

	Wild Wetlands Water Park	
	November to March	**April to October**
Adults	£5.50	£9.40
Children below 16 years	£3.60	£5.70
Families of 4 with 2 children	£15.80	£25.80

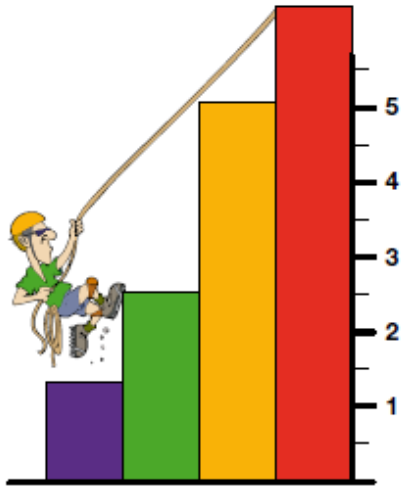
- In January, how much more does it cost an adult than a child to visit the park?
- Three children have £20 to spend to visit the park in their summer holidays. How much would they have left to spend on food after they pay to get into the park?
- What is the lowest cost for a family with two adults and three children who visit the park in December and then later in June?

Look out for price lists for local events and centres.

“Let’s talk about maths”

Make use of opportunities to give your child practical experience of mathematics in the home and everyday life, such as:

- measuring with scales or rulers;
- reading tables of charges in leaflets or contents on packs;
- finding information from brochures or guides.



Asking a question about what your child has learnt in mathematics or had difficulty with in mathematics is often better than telling them.

Activities to carry out together

Use newspapers, holiday brochures, magazines and leaflets to find examples of charts and tables:

- Use a takeaway price list to work out the cost of a meal for the family.
- Find bar charts in newspapers and discuss the information the bar chart represents.
- Pick up a supermarket price list; work out the cost of a week’s shopping.
- Find temperature bar charts in holiday brochures; find resorts with temperatures of 30ºC or more.

ICT Links

Use the Internet to find other examples of bar charts and tables to plan an event or to find information. Look for bar charts showing temperatures around the world.

Explore the *Data Handling* ITP at:

http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/primaryframeworks/library/Mathematics/ICTResources/itps/.

Ask your child to compare who won the most gold medals in the Olympics in 2000 and what happened in 2004.

00390-2007CDO-EN
© Crown copyright 2007