

Pictograph

If we break the word pictograph down into its component parts we get picto (picture) and graph (writing) or picture writing. In this type of graph, we use pictures or symbols to stand in for a specific number of the items we have surveyed.

In using pictures to stand in for the items we have surveyed there are a number of things to consider.

- Use a symbol that is representative of the items surveyed. If it were a graph about baseball we might use a baseball as our symbol. In this case it would be best to use a symbol that looks like a simple car.
- Choose an appropriate number for your symbol to represent. If you choose too big or too small a number your graph will lose its value.
- Determine a good way to represent numbers between the value you choose for scale. If you choose to have your symbol represent 5 items, how will you represent a number that is in between 0 and 5. Often this is done by using a proportional part of your symbol.
- The appropriate use of colour is always a good idea.

I went for a long walk around my community and kept a tally of every car that I saw. I collected the following information. Complete a pictograph using this data.

Car Type	Number of Vehicles
Ford	35
GMC	20
Chrysler/Jeep	18
Toyota/Lexus	30
Honda/Acura	23
European	15
Other	25