



Summarizing and Visualizing Your Field-Based Data



Now that you've collected your data using the various tools in LE 7A, the next step is to summarize it so you can see patterns in it. No matter which field-based tool you used in LE7A, summarizing and visualizing your data is always the next step. This part involves making a chart or graph that will help you see patterns in your data. This is an important step, because you have many choices of how you visualize your data, and this will affect what patterns you see. If you look at our *Storyline manual*, you'll be able to see an example of how you can summarize and visualize your data to see patterns in it.

Some helpful steps to take are:

1. Talk over the investigation question that you asked and the field based data you collected to explore that question. Did your investigation question explore one place, across places, or across time?
2. Think about how to summarize your data in a way that would help you explore your question, as we did in the example in the *Storyline Manual*.
3. Make some data tables or graphs to help you visualize patterns in your data. Be creative with how you visualize your data! There are many ways that you can make tables or graphs to summarize what you found!
4. Talk over some of the patterns you see. What is your evidence for those patterns? What are you wondering about now?

Materials you'll need:

1. All of the data from your field-based investigations (see LE 7.A)
2. Some paper and markers to make graphs and tables
3. The *Storyline Manual* in case you need help knowing where to start!

Below are some prompts to guide your thinking. You can either use these or make your own!



STEP 1: What was your field-based investigation question from LE7.A? Did your investigation question explore one place, across places, or across time?

STEP 2: Think about how to summarize your field-based data in a way that would help you explore your question, as we did in the example in the Storyline Manual. Below are some blank data tables and graph axes to help you get started!

(blank data table)



(Blank graph)



STEP 3: Some questions for your family to talk about:

1. What patterns do you see?
2. What evidence do you have for those patterns?
3. What are you wondering about now?