

Making Bar Graphs

How do you make a bar graph?

Graphs are useful for showing patterns in data. For this reason, you may want to graph data you have organized in a data table. There are several types of graphs. One is the

bar graph. A **bar graph** compares data using bars of different heights or lengths.

A student gathered data about the maximum lengths of different whale species.

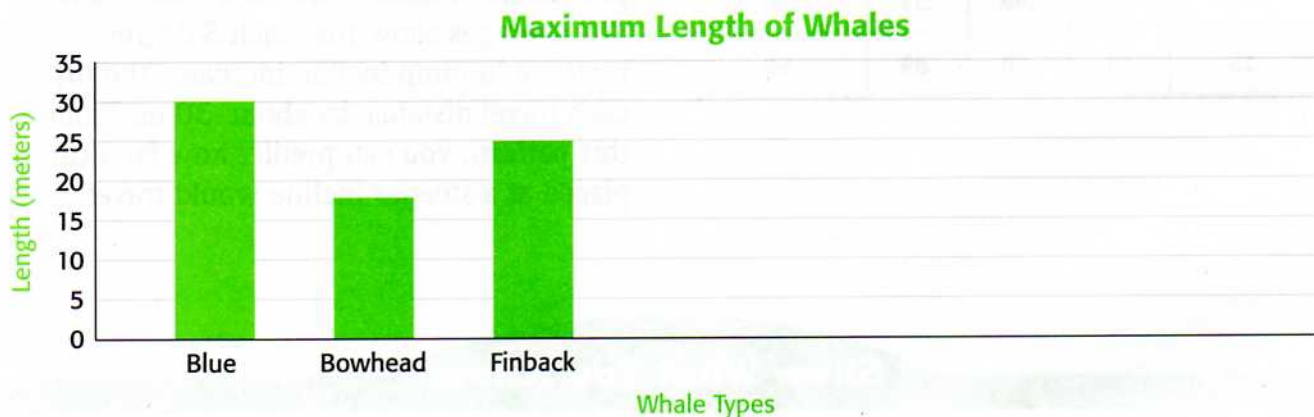
Steps in making a bar graph:

Step 1 Think of a **title** for your graph. It should describe what the graph is showing. Write the title above the graph.

Step 2 Decide what each axis, or side, of your graph will show. Here, the **horizontal axis** shows the names of different whales. The **vertical axis** shows the length in meters.

Step 3 Choose a **scale** for your data. In this case, the scale goes from 0 m to 35 m, a number slightly larger than the length of the longest whale.

Step 4 Finally, draw a bar for each whale. The top of each bar should line up with its correct length on the vertical axis. Write the name of each whale below its bar.



Show What You Know

1. Add bars to the graph to show the length data for humpback, minke, and right whales. Bars should indicate these lengths: humpback 15 m, minke 9 m, right whale 17 m.
2. Using the heights of the bars as a guide, list the whales in order from shortest to longest.
