

Interpreting Graphs and Analyzing Charts

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- [Flocabulary Bar Graph Video](#)

Interpreting Graphs and Charts

Like with the map review and analysis from our last lesson, graphs and charts present data and information in a visual format.

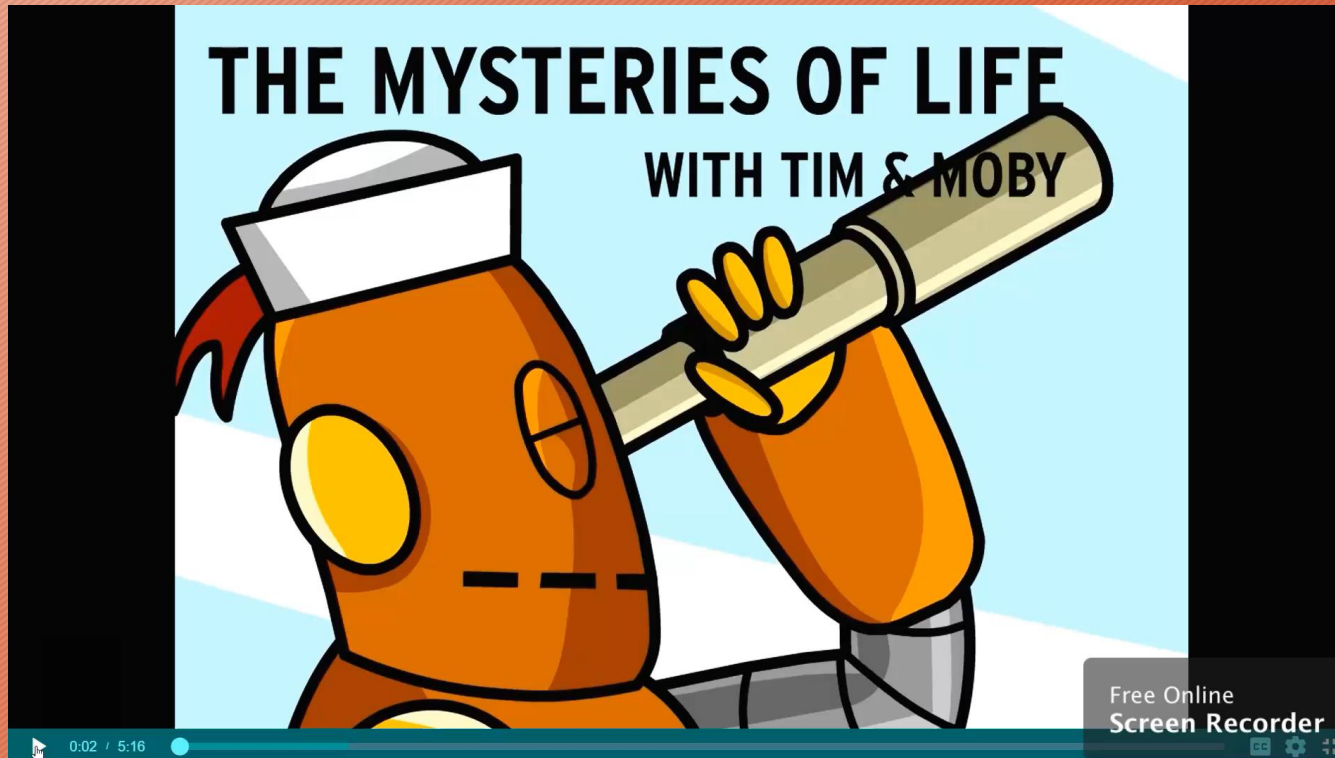
Graphs and charts are used frequently in social studies texts and in the media to illustrate information in a visual format.

Graphs and Charts, and their uses

Graphs are used to compare quantities and to show how things change over time. There are three main forms of graphs- pie (circle) graphs, bar graphs, and line graphs. Each is used for a specific purpose.

Charts are used to categorize information and make it easier to understand.

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How to Interpret Graphs and Charts

When reading information from a chart or a graph, students should:

- Identify the type of graph being utilized
- Read the title or captions to determine its subject and purpose.
- Look for a legend/key, (for graphs) or symbols (for charts). They provide additional information.
- Finally find the source of the graph or chart. (Where did the information come from? Can you trust the data that is shared? What data is missing?)

Terms to Know

- Graph- a drawing or diagram that visually shows how two or more pieces of information are related.
- Title- The name of the chart or graph. Tells you what you are looking at
- Key/Legend- contains information needed for the map to make sense. Symbols or colors that represent things are found here
- Captions- an explanation or description, usually seen with pictures
- X axis- the line on a graph that runs horizontally through zero.
- Y axis- the line on a graph that runs vertically through zero.