

School-Home Letter

Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, our math class will learn about interpreting and representing data.

You can expect to see homework that provides practice with tally tables, frequency tables, picture graphs, bar graphs, and line plots.

Here is a sample of how your child will be taught to solve problems using a bar graph.

Vocabulary

bar graph A graph that uses bars to show data

data Information that is collected about people or things

frequency table A frequency table uses numbers to record data.

line plot A line plot uses marks to record each piece of data above a number line.

picture graph A picture graph uses small pictures or symbols to show information.

MODEL Use a Bar Graph to Solve a Problem

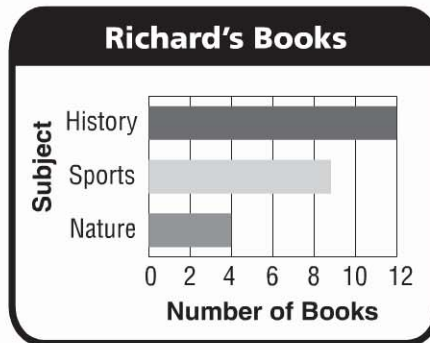
Use the bar graph. How many more sports books than nature books does Richard have?

STEP 1

Identify the bars for Sports and Nature.

STEP 2

Count along the scale to find the difference between the bars. The difference is 5 books.



So, Richard has 5 more sports books than nature books.

Tips

Reading Scales

To make reading the length or height of a bar easier, use a straightedge or ruler to line up one end of the bar with the number on the scale.

Activity

Look for bar graphs in magazines and newspapers or help your child create his or her own bar graphs. Then ask questions such as “how many more” and “how many fewer” and help your child find the answers.