

Pictographs and Bar Graphs

Chapter 4: Data Handling and Presentation · Topic 2

Key Concept

Pictographs work well for smaller, simpler data sets and general audiences since they are visually engaging, but they can be less precise when a symbol represents more than one unit (requiring readers to interpret half-symbols for exact values). Bar graphs offer more precision, since the exact height of a bar can be read against a numbered axis, making them preferred for more detailed or technical data analysis, though both types serve the common purpose of making numerical data easier to compare visually.

Quick Revision Notes

- Pictographs use symbols (with a key) to represent data quantities.
- Bar graphs use bars of varying height/length to represent data precisely.
- Pictographs are visually simple but less precise when one symbol represents multiple units.
- Bar graphs allow more precise numerical comparison using a numbered axis.

Practice Questions

- 1 Draw a bar graph for the data: Apples-5, Bananas-8, Mangoes-3.
- 2 Create a pictograph for the same data, using a symbol to represent 2 units.
- 3 Explain one advantage of a bar graph over a pictograph.