

Dual bar charts

Notes and guidance

In this small step, children build on learning from earlier in the key stage as they explore dual bar charts, looking at the different information that can be seen from them, and discussing the similarities and differences when compared to a single bar chart. In particular, children should recognise the importance of a key to ensure that the bar charts can be interpreted.

It is useful to begin with a simple dual bar chart showing discrete data with small whole numbers, allowing children to explore a range of questions such as the total and difference between various amounts. This is a good opportunity to revisit reading scales and estimating from number lines.

The focus of this step is interpretation, but children could also explore drawing dual bar charts.

Things to look out for

- Children may only read one of each of the pairs of bars.
- Children may combine the pairs of bars and find a total, rather than considering them separately.
- Support may be needed to estimate from scales.

Key questions

- How is a dual bar chart different from a single bar chart?
- What information does this dual bar chart give?
- What is different about what the two bars show?
- How do you know which bar shows which information?
- What questions can be asked about this chart?
- What is the difference between _____ and _____?
- How much is _____ and _____ in total?

Possible sentence stems

- The first bar represents _____
The second bar represents _____
- The difference between _____ and _____ is _____
- The bar is closer to _____ than _____, so I estimate that the value is _____

National Curriculum links

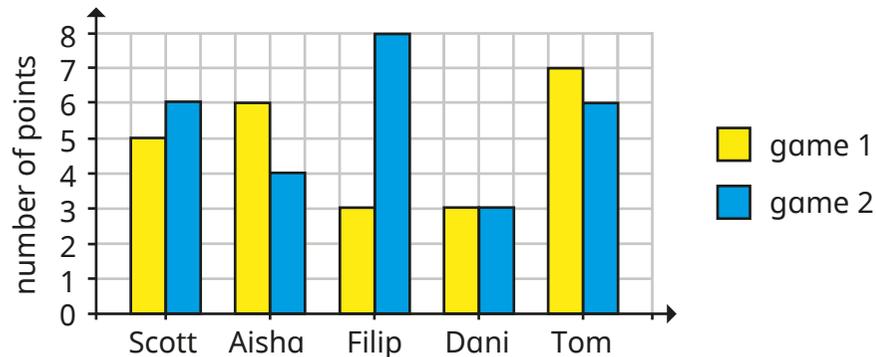
- Interpret and present discrete and continuous data using appropriate graphical methods, including bar charts and time graphs (Year 4)

Dual bar charts

Key learning

- Five children play two games.

Their scores for each game are recorded on a dual bar chart.

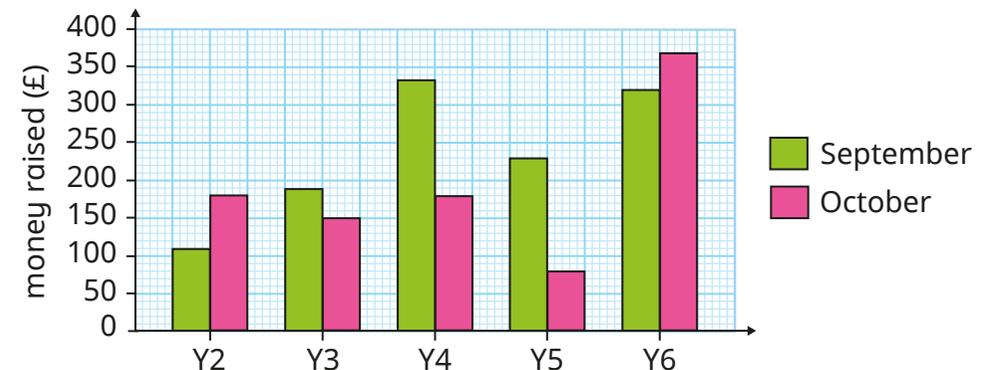


- ▶ Who scored the most points in game 1?
- ▶ Who scored the fewest points in game 2?
- ▶ Who scored the most points altogether in both games?
- ▶ How many children got a higher score on their second game?
- ▶ Which child scored the same on their first and second games?
- ▶ How many more points did Filip score on his second game than his first game?
- ▶ What is the difference between the total points scored in games 1 and 2?

What else can you find out?

- Years 2 to 6 are raising money for charity.

The amount each year group raised in September and October is recorded in the dual bar chart.



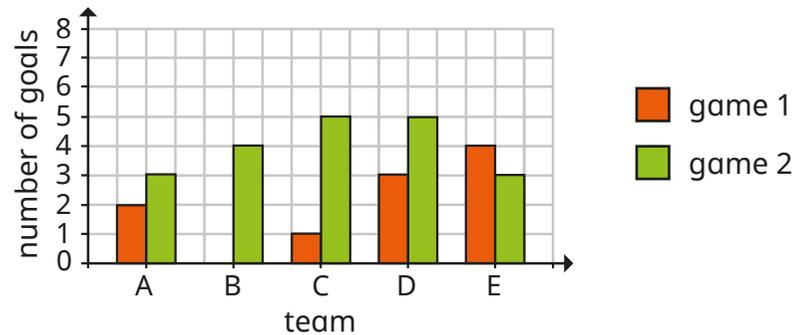
- ▶ How much money was raised in September?
How much was raised in October?
- ▶ Estimate how much more money Year 4 raised than Year 5 in October.
- ▶ Which year group has raised the most money so far?
- ▶ How much money was raised altogether in September and October?
- ▶ How much money in total have all five classes raised so far?

What else can you find out?

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Reasoning and problem solving

The bar chart shows the number of goals scored by some teams in two games.



Tiny wants to work out whether each team scored more goals in game 1 or game 2



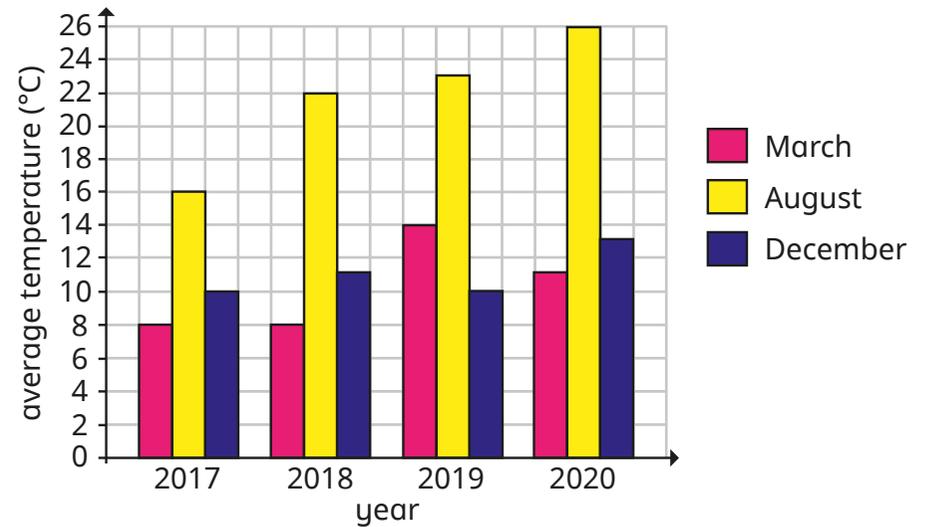
I need to create a table first to show how many goals they scored in each game.

Do you agree with Tiny?
Explain your answer.



No

The bar chart shows the average temperature in a UK city.



Summarise what the chart tells you.

What questions could you ask a partner about this chart?



Compare answers as a class.