

Graphing Ideas

- You can use a graph to take roll in the morning. Have the students mark the lunch chart graph or another graph and use it for your roll.
- Use graphs to enhance a standard or a particular objective (e.g., Which type of rock do you prefer?).
- You can use different types of objects to make the graphs. Some ideas might be clothespins, paper clips, magnets, name strips, Post-it® notes, tally marks, pictures of objects, etc. Use different mediums to help maintain the interest level. You might want to try Velcro® on the back of some of your graphing mediums. Electrical tape is great for dividing your graphs as it comes in a variety of colors. Another fun graph can be made by using two-liter bottles with labels on them representing a graphing choice and have students pour in 1/2 cup of liquid for the bottle of their choice (e.g., The title of the graph could be: Where is your favorite place to swim: the ocean, a lake, or a swimming pool? The graph would then be measured by the bottle holding the most water as the favorite.).
- Remember to ask probing questions about the graph after the students make it.
 - Which category had the most, greatest, fewest, or least?
 - How many more or less did one choice have vs. another?
 - Which was the class favorite?
- Graph the syllables of the spelling words or how many syllables are in a name.
- Graph treats such as M & M's, Skittles, candy bars, etc.
- Use a variety of questions when graphing:
 - What do you prefer?
 - My favorite _____ is:
 - My choice for _____ is:
 - Which do you like best?
 - What is your estimate? (This could be used for counting, measuring, timing, etc.)

Graphing questions are unlimited. Below are just a few ideas:

Ideas for graphing questions:

- Which graph do you like best? Bar graph, tally marks, or pictographs.
- Do you prefer primary colors or secondary colors?
- What is your favorite shape? Cones, spheres, or cylinders.
- How do you feel today? Happy, frustrated, or tired.
- Do you prefer rollerskating or skateboarding?
- Which is your favorite? Fishing, camping, or hiking.
- Do you like fantasy, fiction, or non-fiction books the best?
- What is your favorite sport? Football, soccer, basketball, or baseball.
- Do you like antonyms or synonyms?
- What shape do you prefer? Circle, triangle, or parallelogram.
- What weather do you like best? Rainy, snowy, or sunny.

- Would you rather travel in a car, plane, or train?
- What is your favorite subject? Art, music, or science.
- What drink do you like best? Hot chocolate, orange juice, or punch.
- Do you prefer pizza or hamburger and fries?
- Which movie do you like best? *Finding Nemo* or *Monsters, Inc.*
- Would you rather go swimming, skiing, or sledding?
- What would you prefer? Cooking, drawing, or reading.
- What is your favorite kind of potatoes? Baked, mashed, or french fries.
- Do you prefer addition, subtraction or fractions?
- Which holiday is your favorite? Halloween or Valentine’s Day.
- Which job do you think is the dirtiest? Garbage collector, a rancher, an auto mechanic, or a produce manager.
- Which farm animal is the most important? Cows, chickens, pigs, or horses.
- My home is heated by: Fireplace, gas heat, electricity, or wood-burning stove.
- Where do you prefer to live: City, suburb, rural community, or a forest.
- Which magnet is the strongest? Bar, refrigerator, or horseshoe.
- Which month do you predict will be the coldest? December, January, or February.
- What will today’s temperature be at 12:00 Noon? This will vary according to the month.
- How many hours of sleep do you usually get at night? Seven, eight, nine, or ten.
- Which coin do you like the best? Quarter, nickel, dime, or penny.
- Do you predict more or less than half of our class will eat hot lunch today?
- How many televisions or telephones are in your house?
- How many glasses of milk do your drink each day?
- Is your house number even or odd?
- What month were you born? January – March, April – June, July – September, October – December.
- What time do you usually get out of bed? Before 7:00 A.M., Between 7:00 – 8:00 A.M., or After 8:00 A.M.
- Which community worker has the most dangerous job? A police officer, a firefighter, or a construction worker.
- Which pet would you prefer to have? A gerbil, a puppy, a kitten, or a bird.
- What is your favorite type of fruit? An orange, a peach, an apple, or pear.
- If you were an animal, how would you prefer to hibernate? A long uninterrupted sleep, waking up and eating periodically, or freezing.
- Where do you think a plant will live the longest? Under the sink, on the porch, or by a window.
- Do you prefer vertebrates or invertebrates?

Ideas for picturegraphs:

- What is your favorite national park?
- What is your favorite fruit?
- Which animal would you like to be?
- Which continent would you like to visit?

Ideas for two-ring Venn Diagrams:

- I like eating pretzels. – I like eating potato chips.
- I like milk. – I like orange juice.
- I like pepperoni pizza. – I like Canadian bacon and pineapple.
- I like mashed potatoes. – I like baked potatoes.
- I am wearing pants with pockets. – I am wearing a shirt with a pocket.
- My clothes have a button. – My clothes have a zipper.
- I like to play soccer. – I like to play basketball.
- I am the oldest child. – I am the youngest child.
- I like it when it snows. – I like to hear thunder.
- My birthday is an even number. – The sum of my birthday digits is less than 6.
- There are more than four people living in my house. – I have a pet.
- I like to read chapter books. – I like to read picture books.

Ideas for three-ring Venn Diagrams:

- I like to eat cake. – I like to drink milk. – I like to eat broccoli.
- I am wearing a sweatshirt. – I am wearing blue pants. – I am wearing a shoes with laces.
- I am nervous when it thunders. – I have seen a rainbow. – I like to watch the lightning.
- I wear green on St. Patrick's Day. – I wear red on Valentine's Day. – Christmas is my favorite holiday.
- I can name the days of the week in order. – I can name the months of the year in order. – I can tell you how many days there are in a year.
- I can count to ten in another language. – My parents speak another language. – I speak another language.

Have fun—the possibilities are endless!