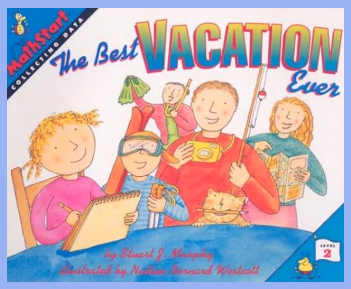


AUTHOR:
Stuart J. Murphy

ILLUSTRATOR:
Nadine Bernard Westcott

This busy family needs a vacation. But where can they go that makes everyone happy?

Ages: 6 to 10 years

ATOS Reading Level: 1.8

Lexile: 440L

ISBN: 9780060267667

The Best Vacation Ever

Where will the family go on vacation?

Topics: charts, surveys, data analysis

Activities To Do Together:

The Best Vacation Ever is an introduction to data collection, analysis, and presentation. Opportunities to collect and interpret data support children's developing skills making informed decisions, determining whether something is true, and solving problems.

Before reading the book:

- Have you ever been on a trip? Where did you go and what did you do? What types of places do you think would be fun to visit? Why?
- A survey is a group of questions that is used to find out what people think. What would you like to ask people about?
- Have you ever taken a survey? What question(s) were asked?

While reading the book:

- Look at the data the girl collects. For each question, which item got more votes from the family? How can you tell?
- If you were asked the questions in the story, what would your answers be?

When you have finished reading the book:

- Look for surveys online or in a magazine.
    - What questions were asked?
    - What was the conclusion or the answer to the original question?
    - How was the data presented? Did you think it was easy to understand? Why or why not?
- Design a survey to find out information about your friends and family.

Questions for Mathematical Thinking:

1. Why was a vacation at home a great match for the family's survey results?
2. Considering the data collected, where else could the family have gone on vacation?
3. Where would you and your family like to go on vacation? What are some things you would consider when deciding where to go?
4. How else could the girl have presented the data to her family?

Early Math Project Resources:

Visit The Best Vacation Ever (countplayexplore.org/book/The-Best-Vacation-Ever) to find activities and related California Learning Foundations and/or Mathematics Standards provided by the California Department of Education for this book.

Vocabulary

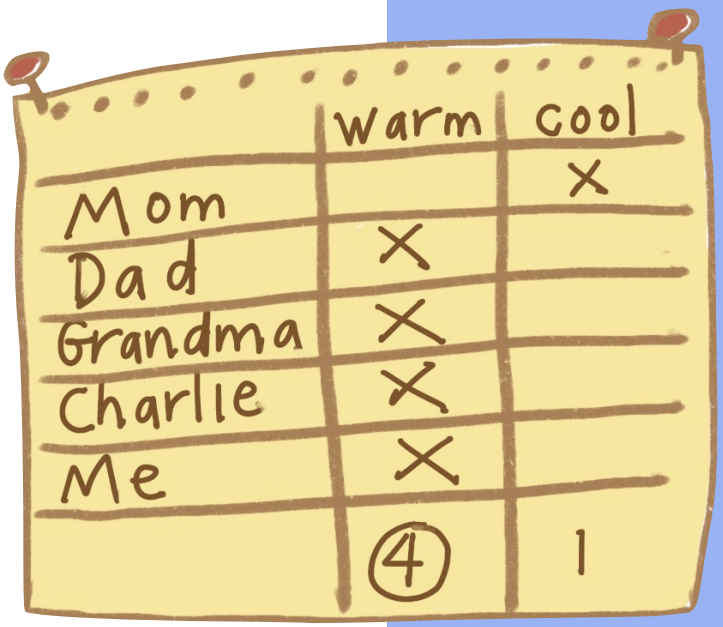
Math words found in the story: charts

Related math words: data, graphs

Words to build reading comprehension: excitement, vacation

Related Books: *Show and Tell! Great Graphs and Smart Charts: An Introduction to Infographics* by Stuart J. Murphy; *Lemonade for Sale* by Stuart J. Murphy; *Every Dog in the Neighborhood* by Philip C. Stead

Click this link to the World Catalog or enter bit.ly/4ll1pbl to find *The Best Vacation Ever* in the public library.



Math Connections *The Best Vacation Ever* is an introduction to data collection, analysis, and presentation. In the story, a young girl helps her family decide where to go on vacation. She asks each family member a series of questions about their destination: should it be warm or cool; fun or quiet; near or far; and so on. The girl adds up the responses and presents the data to her family. She concludes that the data describe their own backyard as the perfect place for their family vacation.

Understanding how data is collected, analyzed, and presented is an important life skill. Much of the information we receive from the news, from advertisements, and from politicians comes in the form of infographics. (An infographic is a clear and visual representation of data and information.) We must be able to effectively analyze the information presented to make decisions, solve problems, influence others, and to determine the truth of the information.

This story presents a simple introduction to collecting data (formulating and asking questions), analyzing the data collected (totaling the responses), and presenting the data in charts.

There are many forms of data collection:

- Open-ended questions
- Multiple choice questions
- Rating on a scale (Likert Scale)

The type of questions asked will determine the type and amount of data you can collect. For example, if you ask “What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?” and you allow open-ended responses, you will get many different answers and the data may be hard to analyze. However, if you provide choices, the data will be easier to analyze but you may not get all of the information. Your data collection methods will depend on your research question. In the story, the girl asked multiple choice questions: warm or cool; near or far; and so on. Multiple choice questions are often used for beginning data analyses.

Presentation of the data can also take many forms:

- Charts/tables
- Graphs
- Narrative

Some things to consider when choosing how to present your data are your audience and the type of data you have collected.

Together, look at some real-life data presentations. You can find graphs and charts in magazines, newspapers, and online. Discuss which types are easier to read and draw conclusions about.

Consider:

- What type of data did the researcher collect?
- What questions did they ask?
- What other way(s) could they have presented the data?
- What information or conclusion can you draw from this presentation?

Plan and create a survey of your own. Some things to consider:

- What do you want to know?
- Who will you ask?
- What types of questions will you ask?
- How will you present the data?
- Who will you present the data to?

Some examples of topics to investigate:

- What is your favorite pizza topping?
- Who is your favorite superhero?
- Where would you like to visit this summer?
- Which is your favorite day of the week?
- What is your favorite vegetable?

Collect your data. As you analyze your data, think about whether the questions you asked were effective at getting the information you wanted. Does your data answer your original question? If not, rethink the type of questions you asked or maybe who you asked.

Create your data presentation. Are your data best presented as a graph or a chart or something else? If you decide on a graph, which type of graph will most effectively present the data: bar graph, line graph, pictograph, pie graph, or another type?

What conclusion(s) can you draw from your data? What will you do with this information?