

Creating a Frequency Plot (Tutorial D5)

http://www.atomiclearning.com/k12/en/movie/75372/play_window?type=Tutorial&sid=1674

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You can enter and analyze frequency data using Data & Statistics. First, let's enter our data into Lists & Spreadsheet by

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going to Insert > Lists & Spreadsheet to create a new page. I'll click in the cell at the top of column A to select

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it, and then I'll type "color" to name the data in this column "color," followed by the Enter key. Next, I'll click

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in the cell at the top of column B to select it, and type "fre," to stand for "frequency," and then press Enter. We

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did a survey in class of what everyone's favorite color is, out of a choice of red, green, blue, or other. Let's

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enter that data first, by clicking in cell A1, and then typing "red," followed by the Enter key. Putting the data

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in quotation marks will make sure the software knows it's categorical data. Now I'll type "green," and then press

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Enter. Then "blue" followed by Enter. And finally, "other" and then the Enter key. Next, I need to enter in how many

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times each color was mentioned; this is the frequency of each color. Six people in class said the color red was

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their favorite, so I'll click in cell B1 and then type "6," followed by Enter. Eight people liked green best, so



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I'll type "8" and then press Enter. Seven people said blue was their favorite color, so I'll type "7" and then Enter.

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Three people like a color other than red, green, or blue best, so I'll type "3" and then press Enter. Note that, when

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you're entering frequencies, empty cells are truly considered empty cells with no data, and will not be considered as

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having a value of zero. Now let's look at this data graphically using the Data & Statistics application. I'll use the arrow

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keys to highlight the cell at the top of column A that currently says "color." Then I'll press the up arrow key

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to highlight the whole column. I need to select both columns, though, so I'll press Shift and then the right arrow key

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so that both are highlighted. I'll click Data>Frequency Plot to bring up the Frequency Plot dialog box. Using the

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drop-down menu I'll choose "color" for the data list by clicking on it. In the Frequency List drop-down menu, I'll

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choose "fre." The Display On field determines where the new Data & Statistics application will be inserted. I want

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a side-by-side view so that I can see both the data we entered and the graph, so I'll set it to Split Page, and

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then click OK. Because my Data List is words, and not numbers, I see my data represented as a bar chart. If they were



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numbers, I would see a histogram. I can now analyze my data graphically using the frequency list and bar chart.

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