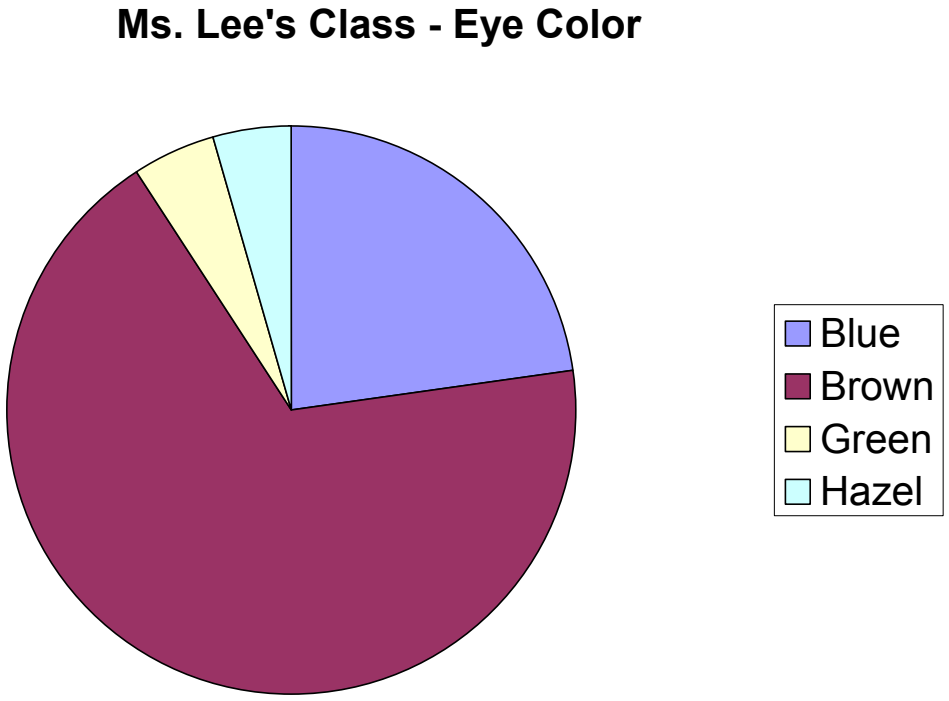
Data & Graphs

A graph is a way to represent data visually. A good graph can make a great deal of complicated measurements easy to understand. Different graphs are better for representing different kinds of data.

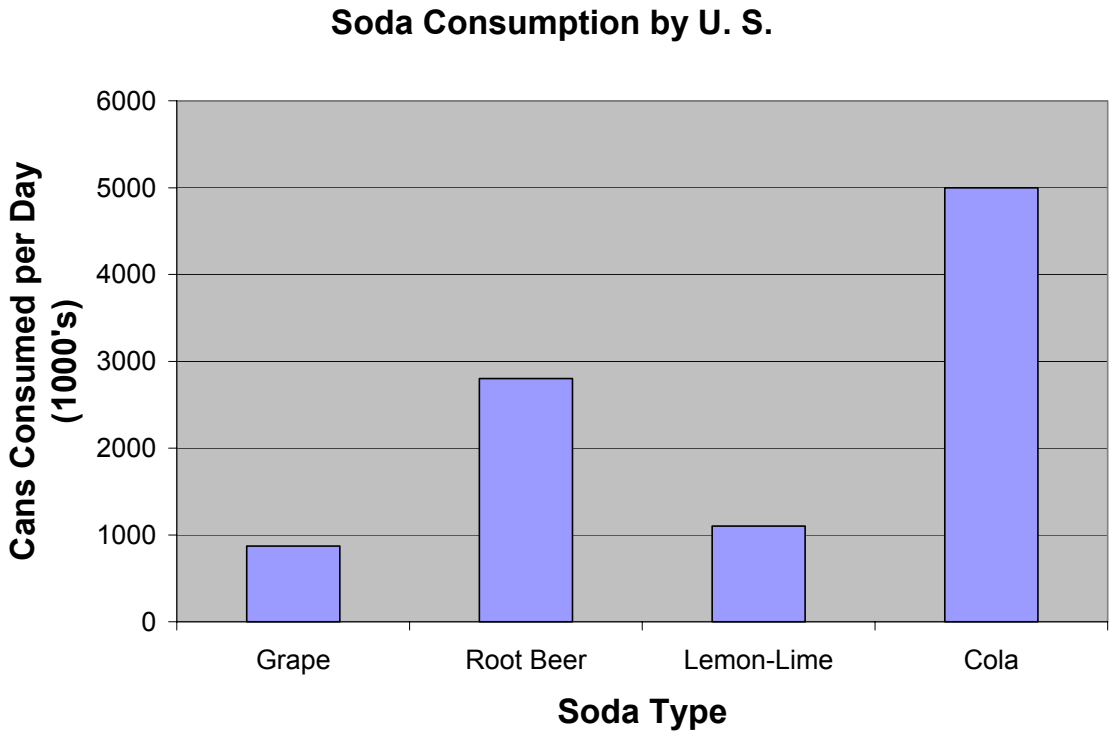
PIE GRAPH: A pie graph is best for showing how a group is divided up. If you want to show what percentage (or what portion, or what fraction) of a group falls into each of a number of categories, you would use a pie graph.

Ms. Lee's Class	
Eye Color	Number of Students
Blue	5
Brown	15
Green	1
Hazel	1



BAR GRAPH: A bar graph is best for showing how one variable is affected by another characteristic. Generally, with a bar graph, only one variable is a measurable trait and so it is the only one to have a number associated with it. This variable is plotted on the Y-axis. The other characteristic is usually not measurable.

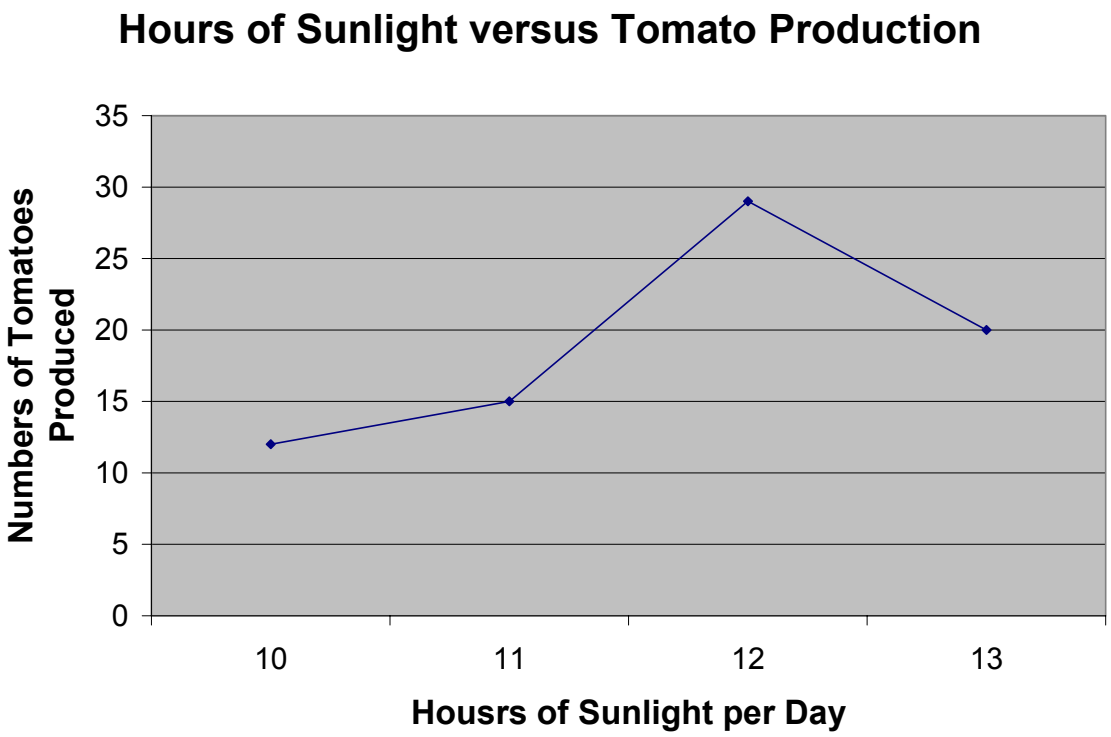
Soda Consumption by U.S.	
Soda Type	Cans Consumed per Day (1000's)
Grape	870
Root Beer	2800
Lemon-Lime	1102
Cola	5000



PICTOGRAPH: A pictograph is virtually the same as a bar graph. Pictures are used in place of plain bars, however. Usually the picture is a symbolic representation of some aspect of the data.

LINE GRAPH: A line graph is best for showing how one variable affects another variable. Generally, with a line graph, both variables are measurable traits and so both have a number associated with them.

Sunlight versus Tomato Production	
Hours of Sunlight	Tomatoes Produced
10	12
11	15
12	29
13	20



NOTE: All the graphs in this document were produced with Microsoft Excel Chart Wizard