

**Unit: Data and Society Lesson-Interpreting Data  
Computer Science Discoveries  
Grade 7**

**How can patterns in data help us make decisions?**

- What's your favorite cake flavor?
- What's your favorite cake frosting/icing flavor?



	Cake Flavor	Icing Flavor
1	Chocolate Cake	Chocolate Icing
2	Red Velvet Cake	Cream Cheese Icing
3	Chocolate Cake	Chocolate Icing
4	Carrot Cake	Cream Cheese Icing
5	Carrot Cake	Vanilla Icing
6	Chocolate Cake	Chocolate Icing
7	Chocolate Cake	Cream Cheese Icing
8	Carrot Cake	Cream Cheese Icing

- Here are some survey results from 8 people about their favorite cake and icing/frosting flavors.
- What do you notice?

	Cake Flavor	Icing Flavor
1	Chocolate Cake	Chocolate Icing
2	Red Velvet Cake	Cream Cheese Icing
3	Chocolate Cake	Chocolate Icing
4	Carrot Cake	Cream Cheese Icing
5	Carrot Cake	Vanilla Icing
6	Chocolate Cake	Chocolate Icing
7	Chocolate Cake	Cream Cheese Icing
8	Carrot Cake	Cream Cheese Icing

If people had to **agree on one cake and frosting/icing** combination for a party, what should it be based on the data? Why?

	Cake Flavor	Icing Flavor
1	Chocolate Cake	Chocolate Icing
2	Red Velvet Cake	Cream Cheese Icing
3	Chocolate Cake	Chocolate Icing
4	Carrot Cake	Cream Cheese Icing
5	Carrot Cake	Vanilla Icing
6	Chocolate Cake	Chocolate Icing
7	Chocolate Cake	Cream Cheese Icing
8	Carrot Cake	Cream Cheese Icing

- Although chocolate was the most popular cake flavor and cream cheese was the most popular icing flavor, only one person chose it
- It's not enough to look at the two answers in isolation.
- For example, if two cakes are chosen, chocolate cake with chocolate icing and carrot cake with cream cheese icing is much better than chocolate with cream cheese and carrot with chocolate.
- Looking at the relationships between answers helps to see which choices go well together.

1. How do you define data?
2. What are examples of data you use?
3. Why should we care about data?

- Data: Information.
  - Often, quantities, characters, or symbols that are the inputs and outputs of computer programs.
- “If you can’t measure it, you can’t improve it”  
-Peter Drucker

How can patterns in data help us make decisions?

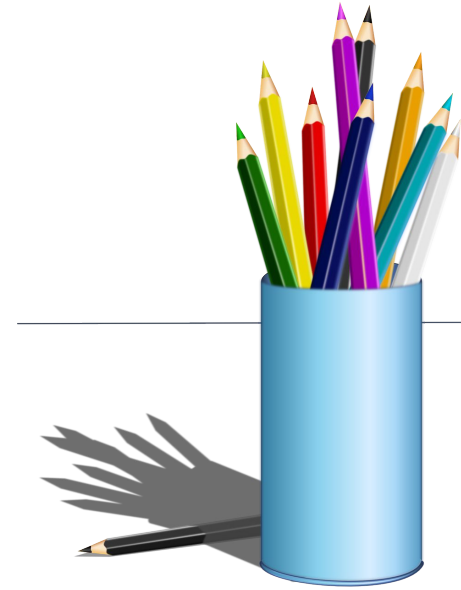
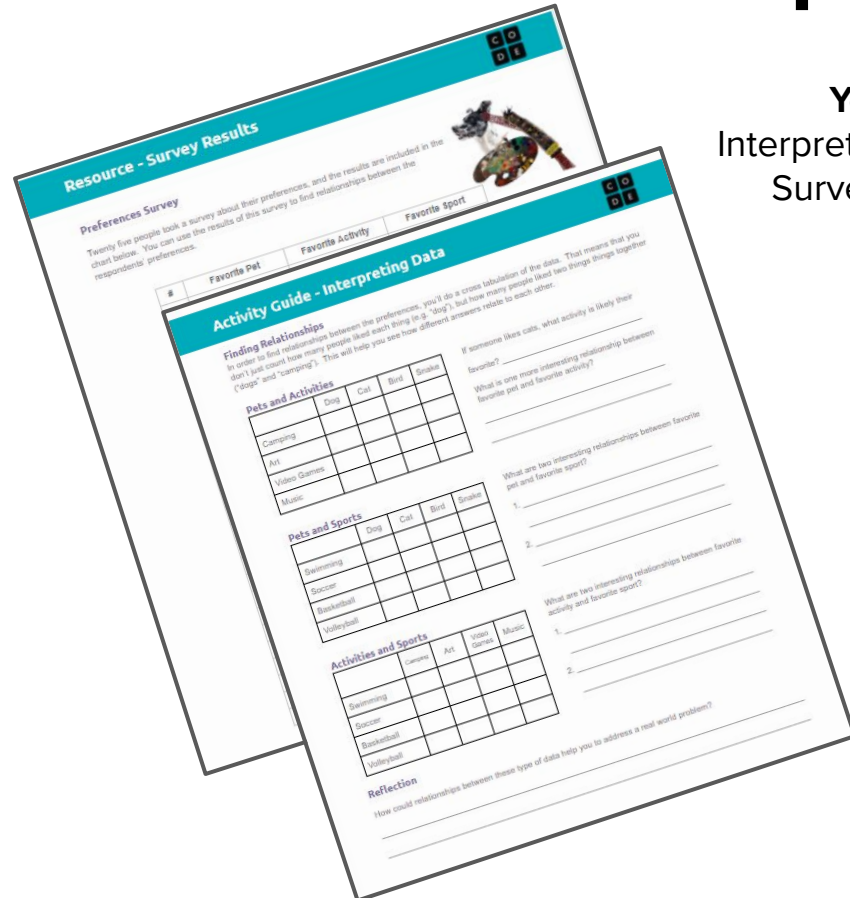


Activity



# Interpreting Data

**You should have:**  
 Interpreting Data Activity Guide  
 Survey Results Resource  
 Pen/Pencil



# Finding Relationships

In order to find relationships between the preferences, you'll do a cross tabulation of [the data](#).

**Activity Guide - Interpreting Data**

**Finding Relationships**  
In order to find relationships between the preferences, you'll do a cross tabulation of the data. That means that you don't just count how many people liked each thing (e.g., "dogs"), but how many people liked two things together ("dogs" and "camping"). This will help you see how different answers relate to each other.

**Pets and Activities**

	Dog	Cat	Bird	Snake
Camping				
Art				
Video Games				
Music				

**Pets and Sports**

	Dog	Cat	Bird	Snake
Swimming				
Running				
Basketball				
Volleyball				

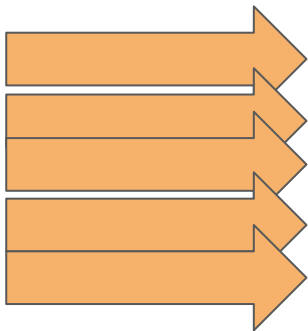
**Activities and Sports**

	Camping	Art	Video Games	Music
Swimming				
Running				
Basketball				
Volleyball				

**Reflection**  
How could relationships between these types of data help you to address a real world problem?

That means that you don't just count how many people liked each thing, but how many people liked two things together ("dogs" and "camping"). This will help you see how different answers relate to each other.

# Finding Relationships Example



#	Favorite Pet	Favorite Activity	Favorite Sport
1	Cat	Art	Soccer
2	Cat	Art	Basketball
3	Dog	Video Games	Soccer
4	Cat	Art	Soccer
5	Dog	Video Games	Soccer

Pets and Activities

	Dog	Cat	Bird	Snake
Camping				
Art				
Video Games				
Music				



# Prompt

If someone likes cats, what activity is probably their favorite?

What is one more interesting relationship between favorite pet and favorite activity?

**Activity Guide - Interpreting Data**

**Finding Relationships**  
In order to find relationships between the preferences, you'll do a cross tabulation of the data. That means that you don't just count how many people had each thing (e.g., "cat"), but how many people had two things being together ("cat" and "camping"). This will help you see how different answers relate to each other.

**Pets and Activities**

	Dog	Cat	Bird	Snake
Camping				
Art				
Video Games				
Music				

If someone likes cats, what activity is likely their favorite?

What is one more interesting relationship between favorite pet and favorite activity?

**Pets and Sports**

	Dog	Cat	Bird	Snake
Swimming				
Baseball				
Basketball				
Volleyball				

What are two interesting relationships between favorite pet and favorite sport?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Activities and Sports**

	Camping	Art	Video Games	Music
Swimming				
Baseball				
Basketball				
Volleyball				

What are two interesting relationships between favorite activity and favorite sport?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

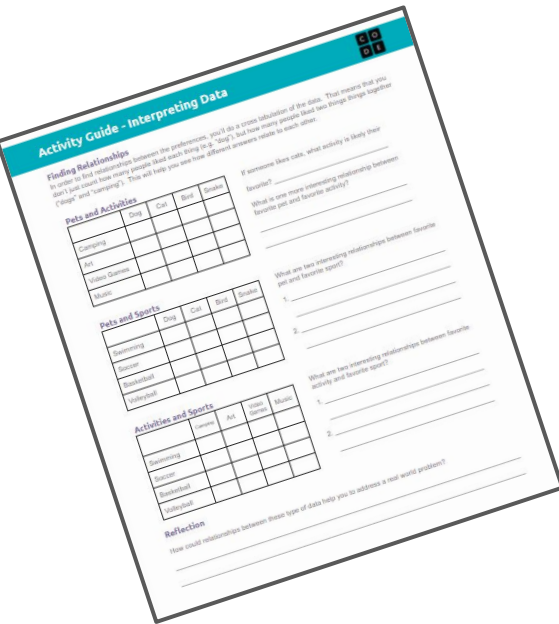
**Reflection**  
How could relationships between these types of data help you to address a real world problem?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Do This

Continue working through this activity guide and complete one of the remaining two tables.

Be sure to answer the questions for your table.



# Share Out

What interesting patterns have you noticed when creating these cross-tab tables?

**Activity Guide - Interpreting Data**

**Finding Relationships**  
In order to find relationships between the preferences, you'll do a cross tabulation of the data. That means that you don't just count how many people liked each thing (e.g., "cats"), but how many people liked two things being together ("cats" and "camping"). This will help you see how different answers relate to each other.

**Pets and Activities**

	Dog	Cat	Bird	Snake
Camping				
Art				
Video Games				
Music				

**Pets and Sports**

	Dog	Cat	Bird	Snake
Swimming				
Running				
Basketball				
Football				

**Activities and Sports**

	Camping	Art	Video Games	Music
Swimming				
Running				
Basketball				
Football				

**Reflection**  
How could relationships between these types of data help you to address a real world problem?

What are two interesting relationships between favorite pet and favorite activity?  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_

What are two interesting relationships between favorite activity and favorite sport?  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_

# Summary

How could knowing relationships between these types of preferences help you to address a real world problem?

**Activity Guide - Interpreting Data**

**Finding Relationships**  
In order to find relationships between the preferences, you'll do a cross tabulation of the data. That means that you don't just count how many people had each thing (e.g., "cat"), but how many people had two things being together ("cat" and "camping"). This will help you see how different answers relate to each other.

**Pets and Activities**

	Dog	Cat	Bird	Snake
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Art				
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Music				

If someone likes cats, what activity is likely their favorite?

What is one more interesting relationship between favorite pet and favorite activity?

**Pets and Sports**

	Dog	Cat	Bird	Snake
Baseball				
Baseball				
Baseball				
Baseball				

What are two interesting relationships between favorite pet and favorite sport?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Activities and Sports**

	Baseball	Art	Video Games	Music
Baseball				
Baseball				
Baseball				
Baseball				

What are two interesting relationships between favorite activity and favorite sport?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Reflection**  
How could relationships between these types of data help you to address a real world problem?

\_\_\_\_\_



# Homework

- What's another data problem you could think of that you could use this method to help solve?
- What questions would you ask?
- What relationships would you look for?