

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How can you collect first-hand data?

A: You can write a clearly worded question that shows what data you need to collect. You can then use the question to do an interview, do a survey, do an experiment, or observe.

For example, to collect data about whether students bring their lunch to school, you could write the question “Do you bring your lunch to school?” You can then observe students at lunch time or ask them one by one in a survey.

Q: How can you collect second-hand data?

A: You can read newspapers, magazines, or books, or you can use the Internet.

For example, you can read a newspaper to answer the question “Who won last night’s hockey game: Calgary or Vancouver?”

Q: How can you decide whether to answer a question using first-hand data or second-hand data?

A: Use first-hand data to answer a question about familiar people, places, or things, such as you or your family, home, or school; for example, “How many pets are in your home?”

Use second-hand data when you cannot get first-hand data; for example, “How many pets are in Canadian homes?”

Practice



Lesson 2

For Questions 1, 2, and 3, tell which question you would answer using first-hand data and explain why.

- A.** How far can each person in our class jump?

B. What is the world record for the long jump?
- A.** What name was given to baby girls most often in Alberta last year?

B. What is the most common girl's name in your school?
- A.** Which paper towel absorbs more water, brand X or brand Y?

B. Which brand of paper towel do most Canadians buy?
- Write a question you could ask to find out what types of water sports your friends did on summer vacation.

Lesson 3

- Would you use first-hand data or second-hand data to answer each question? Explain your choice.

 - What were the 10 most-watched TV shows last week?
 - Should the school hold its spring fair on Friday evening or Saturday afternoon?
 - How many medals has Italy won at all of the Summer Olympics?
 - How does Great Bear Lake compare in size with other large lakes?
- Suppose you want to gather data to compare three animals. Write a question you can answer using second-hand data.
 - Explain why you should use second-hand data to answer your question.
 - Where can you find second-hand data to answer your question? Give a reason for your choice.
 - Collect the data and answer your question.