# Data Blocks

## Requirements:

78 takeaway tubs with lids (or giant foam block or giant jenga blocks or similar)

Print and cut out the individual data cards (NZ Data Cards.doc).

Stick each card onto a tub lid. These are your data blocks.

Print out the signs for labelling your axis (Variables signs.doc)

Optional: Print out and cut up the variable choosing cards (in this document)

## Activity summary:

Hand out a data block to each learner and ask the them to look at the information on the cards. Ask the learners to try to guess what data is on them. Talk through the different variables represented.

Pick one of the variables shown in the data cards. You could use the variable choosing cards by cutting up the cards and drawing one of them. Ideally, start with a categorical variable.

The variables available are:

**Qualitative variables for histographs or ordering data blocks**

* Hair colour
* Eye colour

**Categorical variables for bar graph**

* Languages spoken
* Handedness
* Cats or dogs
* Pineapple on pizza
* Travel method to school
* Height
* Standing jump
* Foot length
* Travel time to school

Put the appropriate axis label signs on the ground or table where you will build your graph. Everyone takes a data block or two and places it in the correct position, stacking towers of data blocks for the categorical variables.

When the bar graph is assembled, ask what the learners notice from the graph. What is the most common value? Is there anything surprising in the data?

Knock down the bar graph and start again!

For qualitative variables, perhaps learners could first order themselves in order on their data block, then select appropriate ‘buckets’ to use for stacking their data bricks into their histogram piles/towers. Alternatively, suggest ‘buckets’ the learners can use for each qualitative variable.

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| --- | --- |
| **Hair colour** | **Eye colour** |
| **Languages  spoken** | **Pineapple  on pizza** |
| **Handedness** | **Cats or dogs** |
| **Height** | **Standing jump** |
| **Travel method  to school** | **Travel time to school** |
| **Foot length** |  |

## Variable choosing cards: