

Collecting Data Sets

Collecting data is an important part of math and science. For practice, let's use the home or classroom as an investigative environment. Fill in the chart below by counting up the items that you see in your home or classroom.

desks									
books									
windows									
chairs									
lamps									
pictures on walls									
shelves									

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

The data collection process is more than just counting. For example, the set of desks in a classroom will likely include a large number of student desks, but it will also include the teacher's desk and maybe other desks or tables.

How do you record the teacher's desk? It's not a "student" desk, but it still belongs in the set of desks. How do you record the difference?

In the set of shelves, other choices will have to be made. What if some of your shelves are attached to the walls, and some are not? They all belong in the set of shelves, but how will you record the difference?

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Think of different ways to organize each set into categories. Some sets may have only two categories, but others may have a lot. Record the number of items in each category using tally marks.

						
						
						
						
						
						
						