

MATH · GRADES 3–4

# Bar Charts

Reading and making them

## Three rules for a good bar chart

1) Both axes need a TITLE telling you what they show. 2) The SCALE on the y-axis must be even — go up by 1, 2, 5, or 10 — never 1, 2, 7, 10. 3) Bars should be the same WIDTH and have GAPS between them (this is what tells you it's discrete data, not a histogram).

## Section A — Read the chart

1. A class survey of favorite school dinners. Pizza: 12, Pasta: 8, Curry: 5, Salad: 3, Burger: 10.

Draw a bar chart of this data using a sensible scale.

2. Which dinner was most popular? Least?
3. How many MORE chose pizza than salad?
4. How many pupils were surveyed?

## Section B — Make your own

1. Survey 10 classmates: which is your favorite season — Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter? Tally the responses.
2. Draw a vertical bar chart of your results. Don't forget axis titles and a chart title.
3. Now redraw the same data as a HORIZONTAL bar chart. Which is easier to read?

