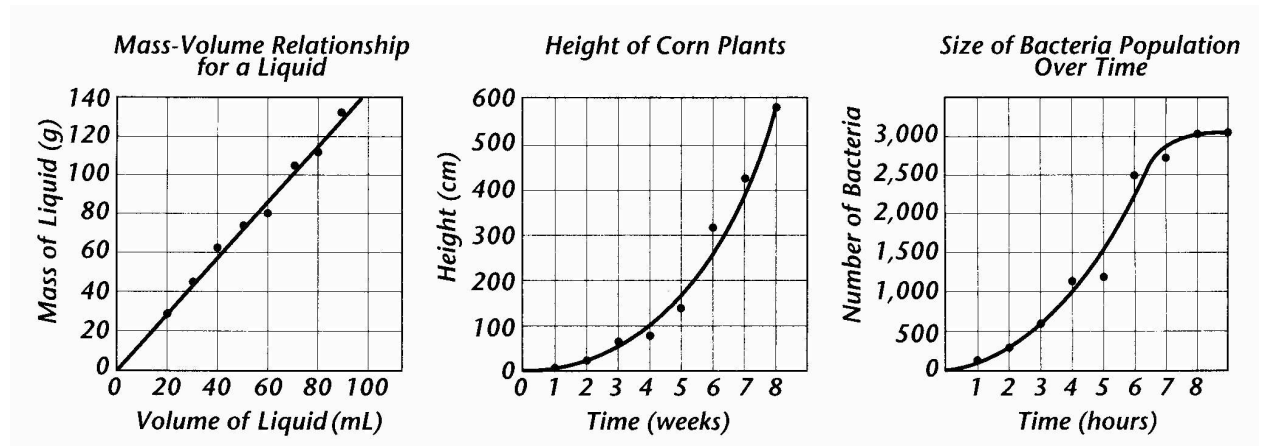


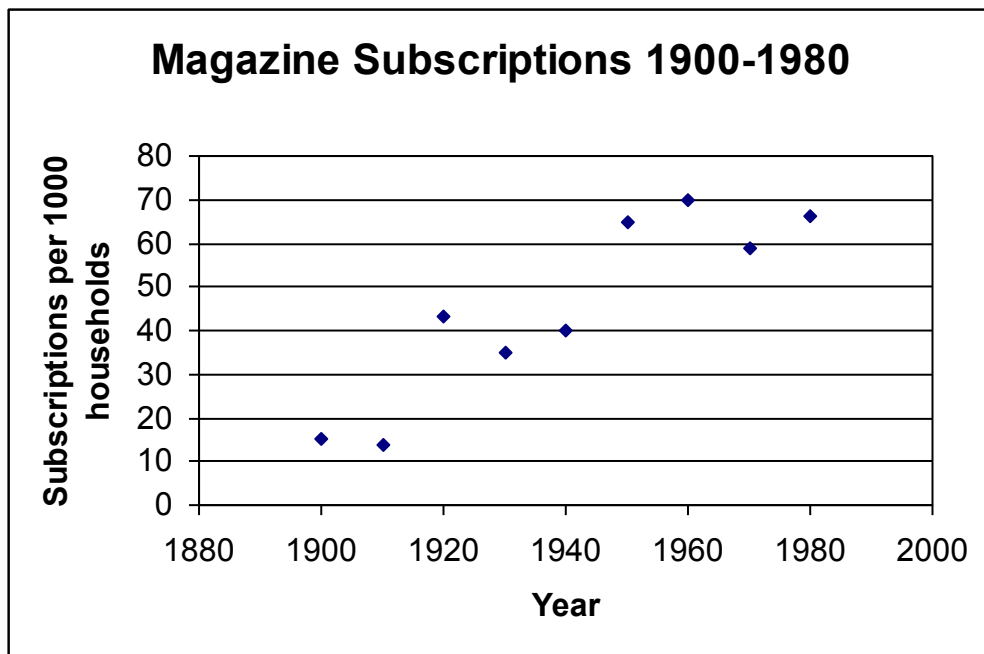
Science Skills 7

Constructing Best Fit Line Graphs

Notice that unlike other line graphs you have made, the lines on the graphs below are not drawn from point to point. Instead, the graphs are a straight line or smooth curve. The lines touch as many of the data points as possible but do not necessarily touch all the points. This kind of graph is called a “best fit graph.” A best fit graph shows an average, a trend, or a pattern in the data.



Look at the graph below and use a ruler or other straight edge to draw the line of best fit.



The total amount (in millions of dollars) spent by the government on mathematics research from 1985 through 1995 is shown in the table below. Graph the data below and draw a Best Fit Line.

Year	\$ Amount (in millions)
1985	91
1986	118
1987	128
1988	130
1989	151
1990	184
1991	185
1992	205
1993	212
1994	240
1995	245

**Start the year with 1985
and the \$ with 90.**

