

Science Skills-8

Finding Trends in Data - Percentage

Once a scientist has gathered data from an experiment, it must be analyzed. A scientist looks for patterns in the data. Patterns in the data are called trends. Scientists look for trends in several ways. One way a scientist can describe trends in the data are to look at the percentages within the data.

To find the percentage you must total the data and divide the data point by that number.

Directions: Look at the tables below and determine the percentages asked for.

A botanist (a scientist that studies plants) measured the height of 5 bean plants after 4 weeks in an experiment. Here are the heights of the plants as the scientist recorded them:

Plant	A	B	C	D	E
Height in cm	11	15	10	18	20

1. What percentage of plants are 15 cm or taller? _____

A zoologist (a scientist that studies animals) was counting the number of migrating birds in a rice field every Monday for a month. Here is what she found:

Type of Bird	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Canadian Geese	205	310	100	50
Cow Bird	45	47	43	50
Whooping Crane	25	35	55	10

2. What percentage of Canadian Geese were present during week 2? _____

3. What percentage of Cow Birds were present during week 4? _____

4. What percentage of Whooping Cranes were present during week 1? _____

An epidemiologist (a scientist that studies how diseases become epidemics) studied the number of people who got sick with the flu in 3 counties in Texas. This is what she found:

County	Harris	Fort Bend	Bexar
Number of people	5087	2476	3239

5. What percentage of people got the flu in Harris County? _____

An astronomer (a scientist who studies the stars) was counting the number of asteroids found near Earth during a 6 month time period. This is what he found:

Month	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.	May	June
Number of asteroids	10	17	13	18	20	5

6. What percentage of asteroids were found in January? _____
7. What percentage of asteroids were found in March? _____
8. What percentage of asteroids were found in June? _____

A paleontologist (a scientist who studies fossils) was trying to organize the fossils found in a museum. She started by counting how many were in each room. This is what she found:

Fossil type	Room A	Room B	Room C	Room D
Plant	15	114	0	34
Animal	265	89	78	12
Bacteria	14	12	1	3

9. What percentage of plant fossils were found in room B? _____
10. What percentage of animal fossils were found in room C? _____
11. What percentage of bacteria fossils were found in room D? _____

A meteorologist (a scientist who studies the weather) measured the high and low temperatures for a week. This is what he found:

Day of the Week	Low Temperature °F	High Temperature °F
Sunday	43	63
Monday	47	68
Tuesday	35	60
Wednesday	60	80
Thursday	63	75
Friday	45	65
Saturday	55	75

12. What percentage of low temperatures were below 60°F? _____
13. What percentage of high temperatures were above 70°F? _____