



M & M Graphs

By: Jessica Shaffer

5th grade teacher; M.A. in Administration and Leadership, Georgian Court University, NJ

Math
Grades 3–5



Introduction

This is a comprehensive project covering topics such as fractions, graphing, and analyzing data using critical thinking skills. Students will use a variety of problem solving skills, and various learning styles are addressed in this project.

Learning Objectives

- Students will collect and analyze data and create a bar graph.
- Students will apply knowledge of all operations and use critical thinking skills to answer word problems.

Materials Needed

- [M & M Graph Project packet/rubric](#)
- M & M candies
- Plates
- Sample bar graph

Procedure

Day 1

1. The teacher will pass out the packets to the students and go over the rubric with the students and how the project will be graded. Directions are included throughout the assignment as a reminder for students as they work through each step.
2. Students will be put in pairs to complete this project but will each turn in a copy of the project to be graded.
3. Before starting the project, the teacher should have the M & Ms pre-portioned. There are two options for this. One, you can count each bag out and put the same amount for each group in a bag. Two, you can just put M & M's in a bag and have all the groups using different data. For younger grades such as third grade, I would do less M & Ms, and I would guide the class in completing each part. For fourth and fifth grade, I would let the students do this on their own.
4. Students should complete #1-6 on Day 1. Students will need to count M & Ms, create fractions and simplify fractions, and then order the colors of the M & Ms from greatest to least.

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5. Early finishers can work on a fraction review worksheet/assignment online. These assignment(s) can be counted as classwork grades.

Day 2

1. Go over the expectations for the bar graph. I would have an example posted on the board for students to reference. As a modification, you can make a skeleton of the bar graph for students where they just need to fill in missing information and create the actual bars on the graph in appropriate colors.
2. Monitor students as they are working on the bar graph and help as needed.
3. Students should complete the five critical thinking questions making sure to show work and label answers. The questions included in this packet are geared more towards a grade 4 enrichment student or grade 5 students. Questions can be changed to address grade level standards. Another cute idea is to change the names in the word problems to teachers in your building or student names. Students love to see people they know in math problems.
4. Students should double check their projects before handing in.
5. Students may go back to the worksheet/online assignment if not completed.

**** Skittles or another type of candy can be substituted for M & Ms. ****

Evaluation

Use the rubric to grade the project.