

Graphing Lucky Charms

The Goal

To sort a small bowl of Lucky Charms cereal by its marshmallow shapes, create a bar graph to visually show how many of each shape were found, and then answer math questions based on the graph.

Materials Needed

- Lucky Charms Cereal: One small bowl or pre-filled bag per student (about 1/2 cup to 1 cup is plenty).
- Lucky Charms Graphing Worksheet: (A simple grid to create a bar graph).
- Crayons, Markers, or Colored Pencils: To color in the bars.
- A flat surface to work on.

The Step-by-Step Process

Step 1: Sorting and Counting

- Get Your Cereal: Give each student their bowl or bag of Lucky Charms.
- Separate the Marshmallows: Have students carefully pick out only the marshmallows and set the oats aside (they can eat the oats later!).
- Sort by Shape: Students will sort their marshmallows into piles based on their shapes (e.g., all the hearts together, all the shooting stars together, all the horseshoes together, etc.).
- Count Each Group: Once sorted, have students count exactly how many marshmallows are in each of their piles. It's helpful to write the final number down next to each pile or in a small chart.



Step 2: Creating the Bar Graph

- Label the Graph: Look at your graphing worksheet. The bottom (the x-axis) should have pictures or labels for each marshmallow shape (Hearts, Stars, Horseshoes, Clovers, Blue Moons, Unicorns, Rainbows, etc.). The side (the y-axis) should have numbers going up.
- Color the Bars: For each marshmallow shape, have students color in the number of boxes that corresponds to how many of that shape they counted. For example, if they found 5 clovers, they will color in the first 5 boxes in the "Clover" column.
- Complete the Graph: Students will color a separate bar for each shape until they have graphed all of their data. Encourage them to use different colors for each bar to make it easy to read!

Name _____

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1. Which marshmallow shape did you find the most of?

2. Which marshmallow shape did you find the least of?

3. What is the total number of marshmallows you found?

4. How many more _____ did you have than _____?

5. Which two shapes, if any, did you have the same number of?
