

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Data Detective: Your 3rd Grade Guide to Spotting Smart Stats

Go beyond just gathering facts to challenge how sources are chosen and why some charts might be better than others for sharing your discoveries.

1. A scientist wants to know which flower bees like most. She watches 100 bees and records their choices. This is an example of:

Answer: B) Finding and collecting data

Observing and recording what happens in the real world is a primary way to find and collect new data for a study.

2. When you put your bird-watching notes into a folder labeled 'Winter Birds 2024' so you can find them later, you are _____ data.

Answer: C) managing

Data management involves organizing and labeling information so it stays safe and is easy to retrieve.

3. True or False: A website written by a random person who doesn't study animals is the best place to find data about endangered tigers.

Answer: B) False

Evaluating data means checking if the source is an expert. A random person is less likely to have accurate, verified data than a wildlife organization.

4. You see a chart showing that students eat more apples in October. How can you USE this data to help your school cafeteria?

Answer: C) Order more apples for October

Using data means making a smart decision based on what the information tells you—in this case, matching supply to demand.

5. A local library tracks how many books are checked out each day. The library is acting as a _____ of data.

Answer: A) source

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A source is the person or place where data comes from. Libraries are great sources for community information.

6. True or False: If a graph doesn't have a title or labels on the sides, it is difficult to evaluate if the data is useful.

Answer: A) True

Clear labels and titles are necessary to understand what the data represents; without them, the data's quality is low.

7. You want to find out the most popular playground game. Which group would give you the most 'reliable' data for your whole school?

Answer: B) Asking 50 students from different grades

To get accurate data about a large group, you need a larger sample that represents different people within that group.

8. If you use a password to lock a spreadsheet containing your classmates' birthdays, you are _____ the data.

Answer: B) securing

Data literacy includes the ethical responsibility to keep private information secure from people who shouldn't see it.

9. True or False: When you compare two different weather websites to see if they both predict rain, you are evaluating the data.

Answer: A) True

Cross-referencing (checking more than one source) is a key part of evaluating data to ensure it is accurate.

10. Your teacher creates a pie chart showing that 75% of the class finished their homework. What is the BEST way to interpret this?

Answer: B) Most students finished their work

Data literacy involves interpreting numbers correctly; 75% is a large majority of the circle in a pie chart.