

FANCY FOOTWORK

Actual shoes form the basis for a pictograph that shows class footwear.

Materials

Index cards • chart paper • paper foot shapes • tape or glue

Here's What To Do

1. Brainstorm ways to classify the kinds of shoes children have on today. Ideas may include shoes that slip on or ones that tie, fabric or leather shoes, shoes with laces, buckles, zippers, or Velcro; sneakers, boots, sandals, moccasins, or party shoes.
2. Write each category on an index card. Place the cards in a column in an open area of the classroom floor.
3. Ask children to take off one shoe and place it in a horizontal row to the right of the card that best describes it. When all shoes are in place, have a volunteer straighten the rows.
4. Talk about the shoe graph. Challenge children to think of ways to show the same data on paper. Some may suggest bar graphs or tally tables. Tell them about another kind of graph that uses pictures.
5. Together, make a class pictograph on chart paper for the shoes on the floor. List categories on the left and label the column **KINDS-OF SHOES**. Use a foot shape to stand for a shoe. Write a key beneath the graph that says 1 foot = 1 person's shoe. Give each child a foot shape to place on the row of the pictograph that corresponds to the row on the floor. Check that the pictograph matches the shoe graph by having children put their shoes back on once they've placed their picture on the graph.

Wrap It Up

- How does a pictograph work? How is it like a bar graph? How is it different?
- How does our pictograph show what we first showed with our shoes?
- What did the bar graph show about our shoes that the pictograph does not show?
- Which kind of shoe is most common in our class today? How can you tell?
- If we make another pictograph about our shoes tomorrow, how can we do it without taking them off?

And Then...

Make pictographs about other kinds of clothing, such as socks, underwear, or shirts.

