Spring Data Detectives

Use a table and a bar graph to describe typical spring weather.

3-ESS2-1 "Represent data in tables and graphical displays to describe typical weather conditions expected during a particular season. Clarification Statement: Examples of data could include average temperature, precipitation, and wind direction..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three kinds of weather data in the first paragraph, and circle the names of ways students can display data in the second paragraph.

Spring Weather Records

1 Weather changes from day to day, but a season often has patterns. To learn about spring in Maple Town, students studied records from the past five springs. They collected three kinds of information: average high temperature, number of rainy days, and wind direction reported most often in each spring.

MAPLE TOWN SPRING WEATHER RECORDS

Spring Year	Average High Temperature	Rainy Days	Wind Direction Reported Most Often
2021	61°F	9	West
2022	63°F	11	West
2023	62°F	10	West
2024	64°F	8	West
2025	63°F	12	West

2 A table keeps each year's data in one place. A bar graph can compare numbers, such as average high temperatures or rainy days. Wind direction is not a number, so students can use a table or a pictograph to show how often each direction occurs. Labels tell what the data means.

3 The records do not predict weather on one particular spring day. They help students describe typical conditions expected during spring. When several years show a similar result, that result is a useful pattern. Students should use titles, labels, and numbers carefully so another reader can understand the weather data.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two kinds of data in the table could be compared in a bar graph? Why?

2. What wind direction was reported most often in every spring year shown?

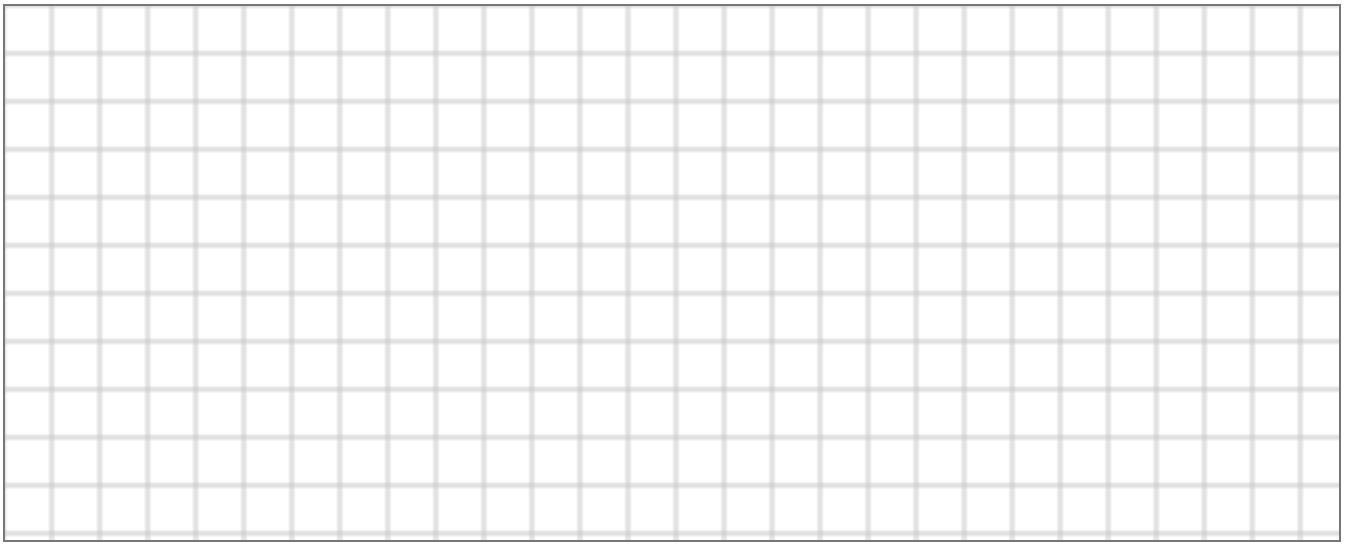
3. Which year had the fewest rainy days? What was that year's average high temperature?

4. What typical spring wind condition can you describe from all five table entries?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use the rainy-days data to make a bar graph on the grid. Leave space for a title and both axis labels. Draw the horizontal axis on a grid line near the bottom. Let each complete square upward stand for 2 rainy days; number six spaces 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12. Draw odd values halfway between their neighboring numbered lines. Write one sentence naming the year with the most rainy days.



ANSWER KEY

Spring Data Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3-ESS2-1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the three kinds of weather data in the first paragraph, and circle the names of ways students can display data in the second paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two kinds of data in the table could be compared in a bar graph? Why?	**Average high temperature and rainy days. Both are numbers that can be compared.**
2	What wind direction was reported most often in every spring year shown?	**West.**
3	Which year had the fewest rainy days? What was that year's average high temperature?	**2024, 64°F.**
4	What typical spring wind condition can you describe from all five table entries?	**West was the wind direction reported most often in every year shown.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A graph titled “Maple Town Spring Rainy Days” labels Year horizontally and Rainy Days vertically. The vertical labels are 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, one square per 2 days. Bar heights for 2021–2025 are 9, 11, 10, 8, 12 days (4½, 5½, 5, 4, 6 squares). The year 2025 had the most rainy days.

Check five equal-width bars with heights 9, 11, 10, 8, 12 and a consistent zero-based scale of 2 days per full grid square. Nine and eleven lie halfway between numbered lines. Six vertical spaces reach 12, leaving room inside the supplied grid for labels/title. Preserve all four table-reading answers.