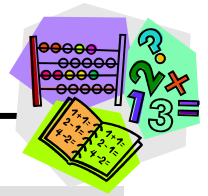


# Broken Line Graphs

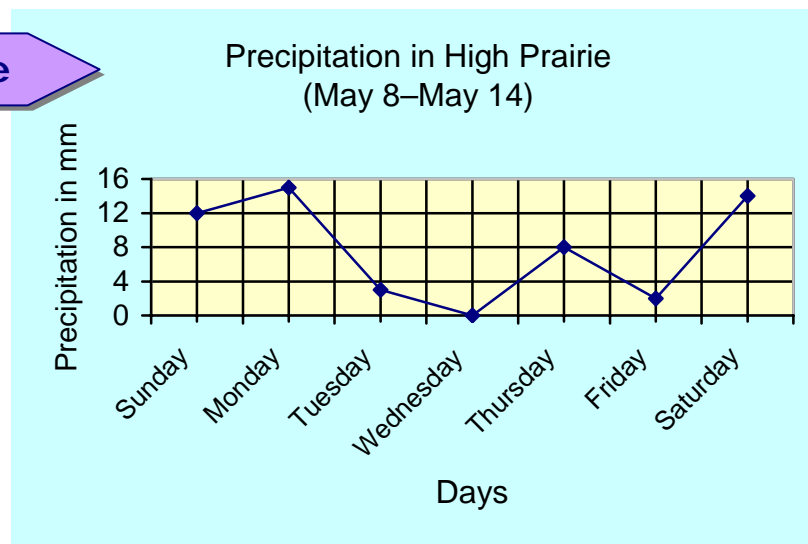


Broken line graphs (also called line graphs) are used to show changes in data over time. They display trends (patterns) and help us make predictions.

Examples of information represented in broken line graphs include: the growth pattern of a person, the Earth's climate changes over time, the temperature change of vinegar when baking soda is added and the pollution of a water system over time.

In a broken line graph, markers are used to represent amounts. These amounts are then joined together by straight lines. Markers can be dots, stars or other representations.

## Example



Examine the graph thoroughly to understand the information presented. Ask the following questions. Discuss your answers with classmates.

- How many days are represented?
- Which days had the most/least amount of precipitation?
- Where was the data recorded?

Conclusions can be drawn from graphs. For example, conclusions from this line graph include:

- The range of data is 0 to 15.
- 15 mm of precipitation fell on Monday.
- 0 mm of precipitation fell on Wednesday.
- More precipitation fell on Sunday and Monday than on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- The most precipitation that fell in a day during this period of time was 15 mm.

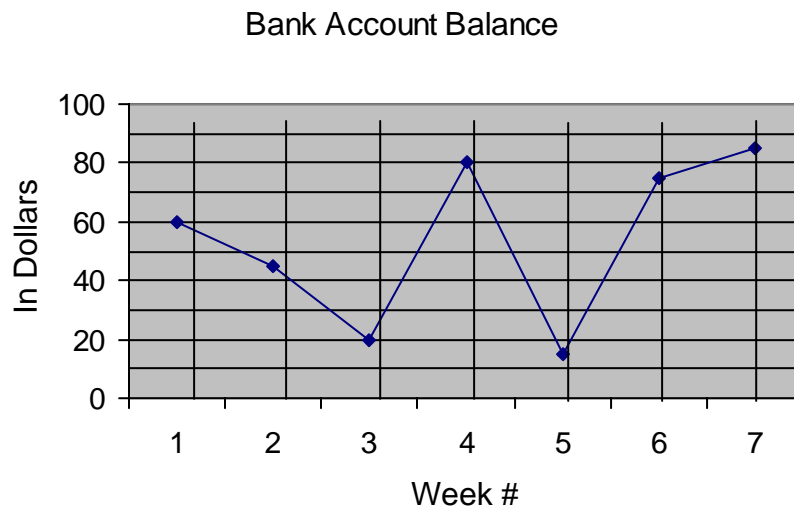
Does the broken line graph show a change in precipitation over time? Yes



## Practice: Reading and Interpreting Broken Line Graphs

1. Joe tracked the approximate balance of his bank account over the course of 7 weeks.

Week	Balance (in \$)
Week 1	60
Week 2	45
Week 3	20
Week 4	80
Week 5	15
Week 6	75
Week 7	85



The line graph shows Joe very quickly that during weeks 3 and 5 he spent more money than at any other time.

Write two statements about the graph.

Write a conclusion statement about the information displayed on line graphs.

2. Use a variety of sources of information such as a library, atlas, newspaper or the Internet, to locate line graphs. Discuss with classmates the type of data/information displayed on these graphs.