



The census of the United States is taken every 10 years. The census is an attempt to count the number of people in the U.S. Display 4.8 shows the census totals for the years 1790 to 2000. Display 4.9 is a graph of the same data.

1. Write two questions that you think are interesting and that would be easier to answer using the table rather than the graph.
2. Write two questions that you think are interesting and that would be easier to answer using the graph rather than the table.

To summarize, data can be presented in different ways. Using tables or graphs are the two most common methods. When there are few data points, a table may be the best way to look at the data. As the number of data points increases, getting a picture of “what’s going on” from a table becomes difficult and it’s time to graph the data. Usually one can read exact information from a table, while a graph provides reasonable estimates and an overall picture of the data.

Year	Population (in Millions)
1790	3.929
1800	5.308
1810	7.240
1820	9.638
1830	12.866
1840	17.069
1850	23.192
1860	31.443
1870	38.558
1880	50.156
1890	62.948
1900	75.995
1910	91.972
1920	105.711
1930	122.775
1940	131.669
1950	150.697
1960	179.323
1970	203.185
1980	227.224
1990	249.464
2000	281.421

U.S. Census

Display 4.8