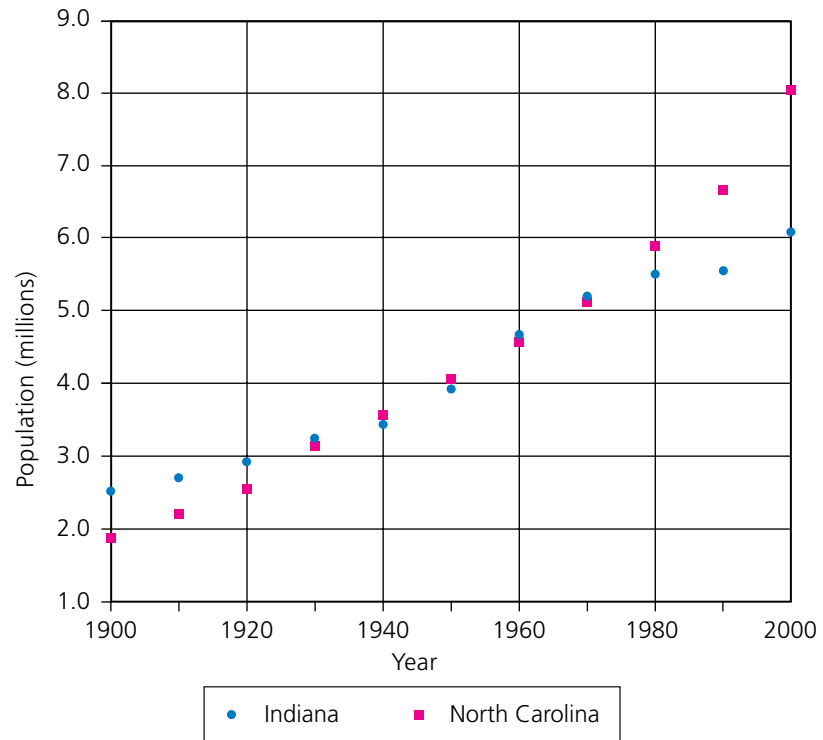




We can see that for some decades these two states have had similar populations. The table provides accurate data but it may be more difficult to determine a pattern from it. A graph may make an overall pattern easier to see. As you see on the legend in Display 5.17, we use different symbols for the two populations we want to compare.



Display 5.17



In which years did Indiana have a larger population than North Carolina? In which years did Indiana have a smaller population than North Carolina? Is it easier to see this from the graph or the table?



Find the least-squares line for each state. Is each line a good fit?

If the points are on a straight line exactly, then connecting the points gives us the line. That is not true here. We could draw the least-squares line or we could connect the points. Let's compare the two methods. In Display 5.18, we connect the points.