Great Graphs

**Definition**

Graphs are text features that help you quickly compare data. A line graph displays data as points connected by line segments. A bar graph displays data as vertical or horizontal bars.

In this line graph, read across on the horizontal axis to find the year. Read up and down on the vertical axis to find the population per square mile.

**Lode County Population Density**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People per Square Mile</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>90</td>
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**Use the line graph to answer questions 1–7.**

1. About how many people per square mile lived in Lode County in 1960?
2. About how many people per square mile lived in Lode County in 1990?
3. How much did the population density per square mile increase between 1940 and 1950?
4. In what year did the population density rise to 50 people per square mile?
5. In what year was the population density the lowest?
6. In what two years were the population densities the same?
7. Did the population density increase more in 1950 and 1960 or in 1960 and 1970?

In this bar graph, the horizontal axis gives the year. The vertical axis gives the number of students per square mile.

**Lode County School Population**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People per Square Mile</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>45</td>
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**Use the bar graph to answer questions 8–12.**

8. About how many students per square mile were there in 1940?
9. What was the increase in number of students per square mile between 1940 and 1990?
10. In what two years were the student population densities the same?
11. In what year was the population density 15 students per square mile?
12. What year has no data entered on the graph?

**Tip**

Both a bar graph and a line graph are good ways to quickly compare data from year to year. It might be easier for a reader to use the same kind of graph to help a reader compare two graphs with similar information.

**Objective:** Use text structures (comparison) and features (graphs) to locate and comprehend information presented visually (graphs).