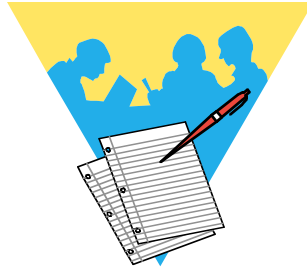


# Creating a Survey with Excel



Students always love the opportunity to collect real data from people. In this activity, ask students to collect data on a suitable topic from several classes. For an example, students may gather data on the brand of toothpaste that people are currently using. After students add up the totals for each class, have them create a worksheet similar to this one.

|    | A             | B          | C            | D         | E |
|----|---------------|------------|--------------|-----------|---|
| 1  |               |            |              |           |   |
| 2  |               |            |              |           |   |
| 3  |               | Mrs. White | Miss Stanley | Mr. Green |   |
| 4  |               |            |              |           |   |
| 5  | Acquafresh    | 6          | 3            | 7         |   |
| 6  | Crest Gel     | 4          | 5            | 3         |   |
| 7  | Crest Paste   | 3          | 4            | 2         |   |
| 8  | Colgate Gel   | 2          | 1            | 3         |   |
| 9  | Colgate Paste | 1          | 0            | 1         |   |
| 10 | Mentadente    | 1          | 0            | 1         |   |
| 11 | Tom's Natural | 5          | 4            | 4         |   |
| 12 |               |            |              |           |   |
| 13 |               |            |              |           |   |

To create a chart, simply highlight all of the data, and click on the Chart Wizard in the menu. Choose an appropriate type of chart, and choose the sub-type. (You can press and hold the button to see a sample of your chart). Click Next.

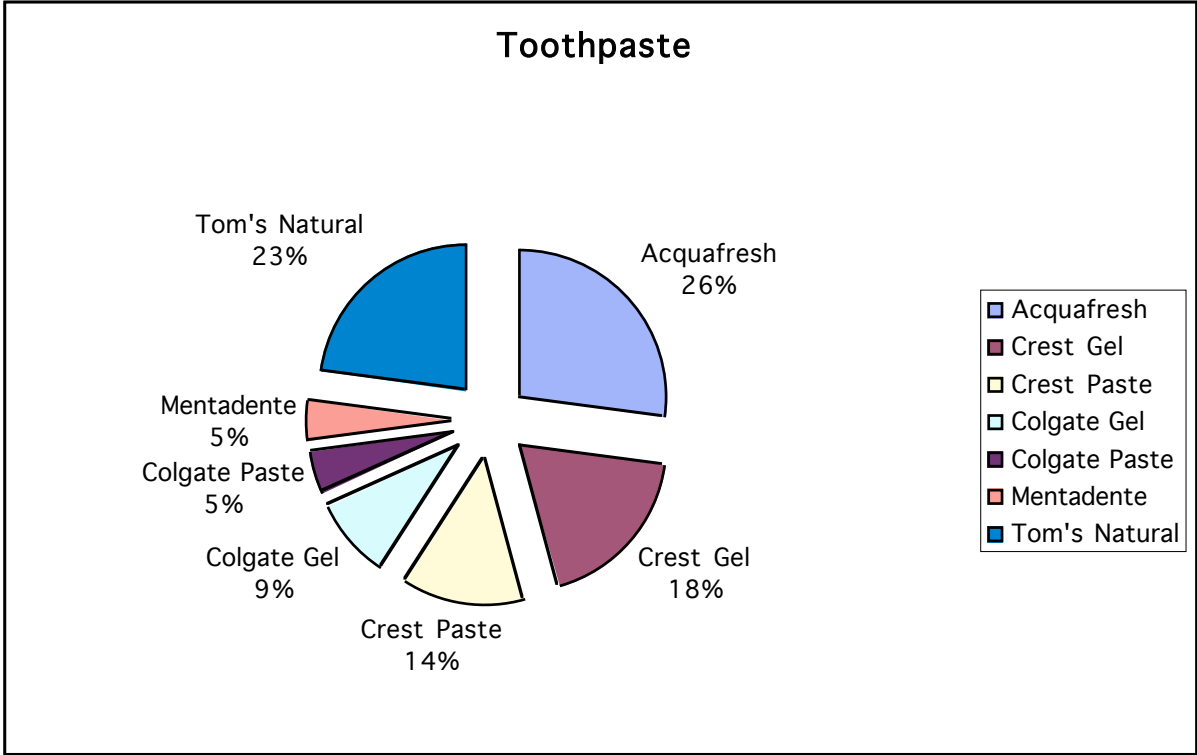
Click Next again.

Choose the Title Tab. Enter an appropriate title for your chart. Choose the Legend Tab. Make sure "Show legend" is checked, and choose a placement for it. Choose Data Labels. Select "show label and percent".

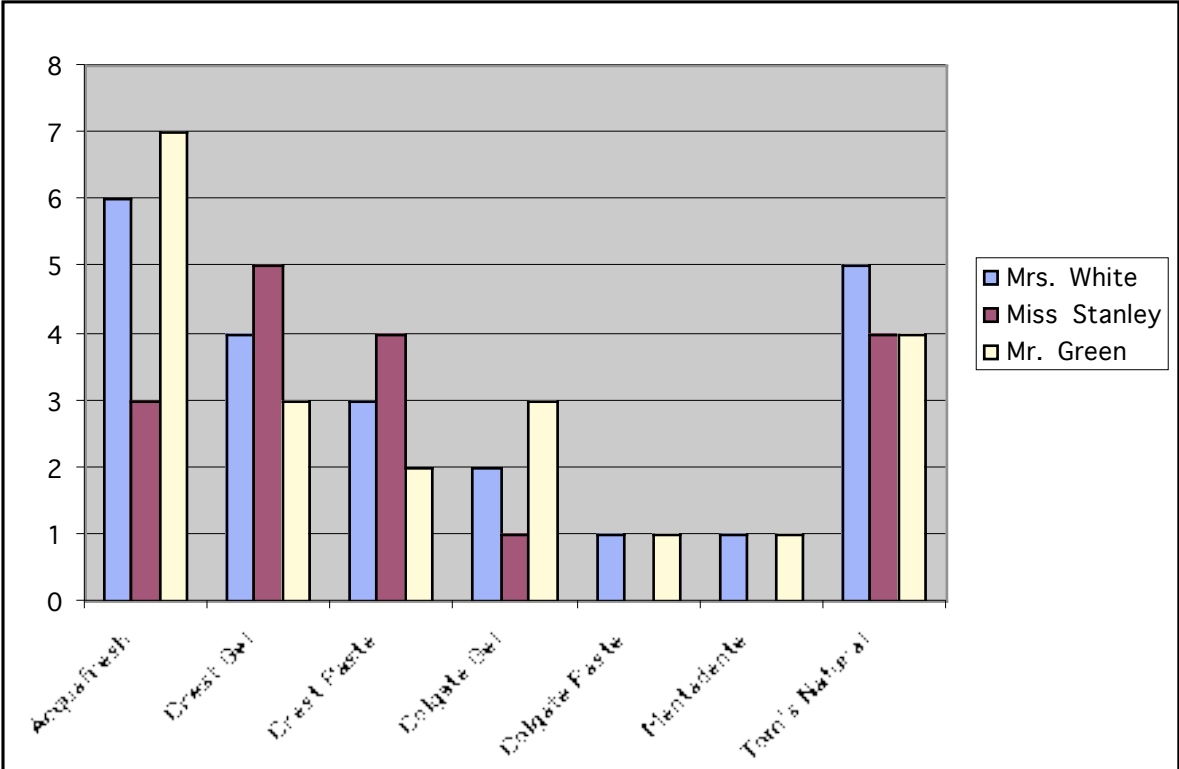
Click Next.

Place chart in: "As object in:"

Click Finish



You can also have the chart compare all three classes by choosing a "comparative column" chart.



## **Extensions:**

Now you can find out if students can answer questions from the charts that they've created:

- Which class uses the most Acquafresh?
  - Which class uses the most gels combined?
  - Which class has the most students using a single brand?
- 

## **Suggestions for more surveys**

- Survey favorite movies, pets, sports, snacks, dinners, breakfast cereals.
- Chart student birthdays, weather temperatures, election results, Olympic medals.
- Conduct a "blind" taste test between chocolate chip cookies or juices, and have students chart the results.
- Survey birds on a bird feeder.
- Compare prices for various party foods from several stores.

## **Conduct Research from the Internet**

Middle school and high school student projects may be built around research from the Internet.

- Study historical data
- Compare nutritional data from various packaged foods from web sites.
- Follow a company on the stock market. Simulate buying and selling on a spreadsheet worksheet.
- Follow and chart the progress of sports teams or sports events
- Chart several years of rainfall in several locations

## **Personal Data**

- Have students keep track of their own grades
- Have students organize their collections on a spreadsheet (CDs, trading cards, etc.)
- Keep track of personal expenditures for entertainment, clothes, food, gifts, etc.
- Have students keep track of earnings and allowances.