

NRICH The Domesday Project

<https://nrich.maths.org/7554>

At the moment we are living through a very big time in history. I have seen how different projects are recording these events so that future generations can understand these momentous times.

How are you and your family recording the things you are all doing? Can you research other projects that are recording events?

Below is a maths activity that was carried out in 1986. You can find out more about it by visiting the BBC website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/domesday/story>

A Bar Chart Of What Pets We Have In Class Two		: classes : total: total			
		pets	: 5	: 6	: pets : families
18	X	fish	: 26	: 14	: 40 : 19
17	X	dog	: 12	: 15	: 27 : 26
16	X	cat	: 12	: 14	: 26 : 20
15	X	rabbit	: 7	: 7	: 14 : 12
14	X	budgerigar	: 2	: 6	: 8 : 7
13	X	hamster	: 4	: 3	: 7 : 6
12	XX	guinea pig	: 1	: 4	: 5 : 6
11	XX X	terrapien	: 2	: 3	: 5 : 3
10	XX X	mouse	: 3	: 0	: 3 : 1
9	XX X	tortoise	: 1	: 2	: 3 : 2
8	XX X	horse	: 0	: 1	: 1 : 1
7	XX X				
6	XX XX				
5	XX XX X				
4	XX XXXX				
3	XX XXXX X				
2	XXXXXXXX XX X X				
1	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX				

Above are two sets of data that were gathered by school children in 1986 for what was called the Domesday Project. This project took place throughout the U.K. celebrating 900 years since the Domesday Book.

So, in the data you see what two schools found out about the pets owned by some of the children. The Domesday Project took place in the early days of computers and so there were not many ways to display the information.

Here is a collection of seven such surveys which you can download as a pdf ([data.pdf](#)). These seven include the two above. Have a good look at them. You could focus on just the two above or on all seven.

What did the various school children find out?

These seven schools were all from very different areas of the UK. Does that surprise you? How might that have affected the data?

What differences do you notice in the ways that the data is displayed?

Which survey do you think is presented in the best way? Why?

Which survey do you think is not presented in a helpful way? Why?