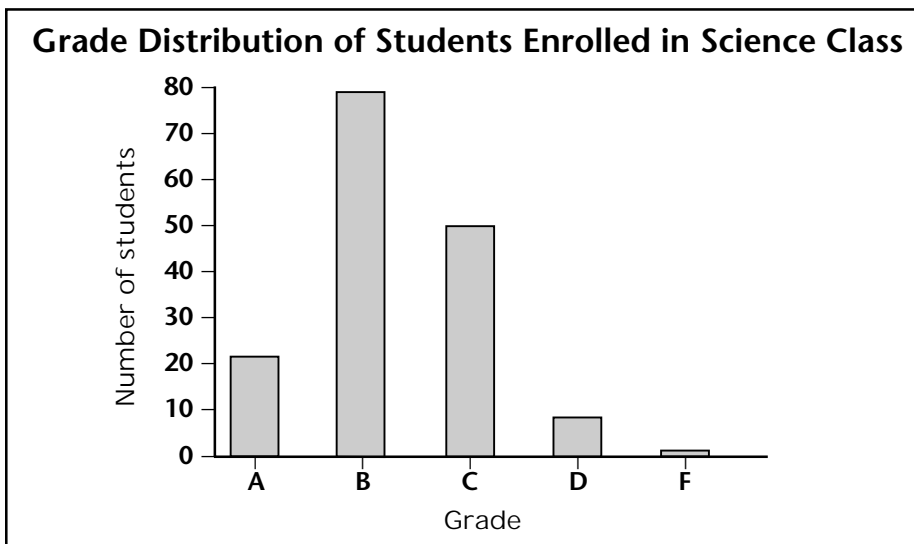Name _____ Date_____ Class_____

COMMUNICATING SKILLS

Introduction to Graphs

Examine the following table and graph:

Grade Distribution for Students Enrolled in Science Class

Grade	Number of students
A	22
B	79
C	50
D	9
F	2

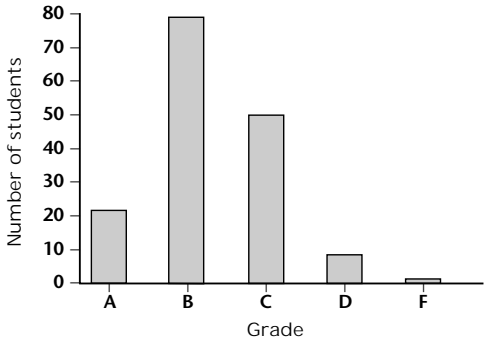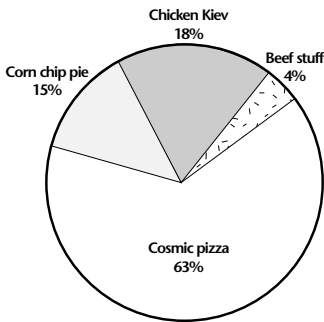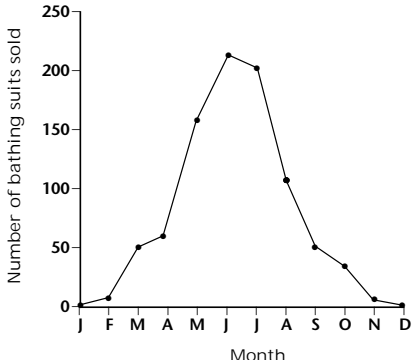**Grade Distribution of Students Enrolled in Science Class**

1. Both of these figures display the same information but in different ways. Which figure is easier to understand? Explain why you think so.

_____

_____

_____

2. If you need to get specific data, such as the exact number of students who earned a B, which figure would you use? Explain your answer.

_____

_____

Choosing the Right Graph

Data tables provide an organized way of viewing information, and **graphs** are *pictures* of the information in a data table. Sometimes it is faster and easier to interpret data by looking at a graph. It is important to choose the type of graph that best illustrates your data. The following table summarizes the best uses for three of the most common graphs:

Type of graph	Best use for this graph
Bar graph **Grade Distribution of Students Enrolled in Science Class**	A bar graph is best used for comparing data quickly and easily, such as the grade distribution of students enrolled in science class or the growth of plants in different pots.
Pie graph **Percentage of Students Picking Various Lunch Entrees** Chicken Kiev 18%, Beef stuff 4%, Corn chip pie 15%, Cosmic pizza 63%	A pie graph is best used for showing percentages, such as the percentage of the student body who picked certain entrees for lunch or the percentage of your allowance that will go toward purchasing various things.
Line graph **Number of Bathing Suits Sold Each Month**	A line graph is best used for looking at changes over time, such as the number of bathing suits sold each month during the year or the change in your sister's height throughout the year.

▲ **COMMUNICATING SKILLS**

Choose the Graph

What graph type do you think best presents each set of data? Explain.

1. The percentage of rabbits preferring various foods

Food	Percentage preferring that food
Skippy's Rabbit Chow	32
Homemade rabbit food	13
Happy Rabbit	10
Joe's Special Food for Rabbits	44
Premium Rabbit Nutrition Diet	1

_____

_____

2. Albert's grades for each month of the school year

Month	Grade in science class
September	98
October	94
November	88
December	78
January	82

Month	Grade in science class
February	83
March	86
April	81
May	97

_____

_____

3. The pH of solutions in experimental test tubes

Test-tube number	pH
1	6.7
2	7.1
3	7.4
4	7.1
5	7.0

_____

_____