Name: _____

Line Plots

Line plots use a number line to show the frequency of values in a data set. A mark, often an ✕, is placed in the correct spot above the number line each time a value occurs. Sometimes the mark is a dot, so line plots are often called dot plots.

Each ✕ or dot on a line plot represents one data point unless otherwise stated in a key. Marks representing more than one data point are rare. They are often only used with very large data sets.

Line plots are a good way to show how values are distributed in a data set. They easily show gaps in data and where values are grouped, or clustered, together.

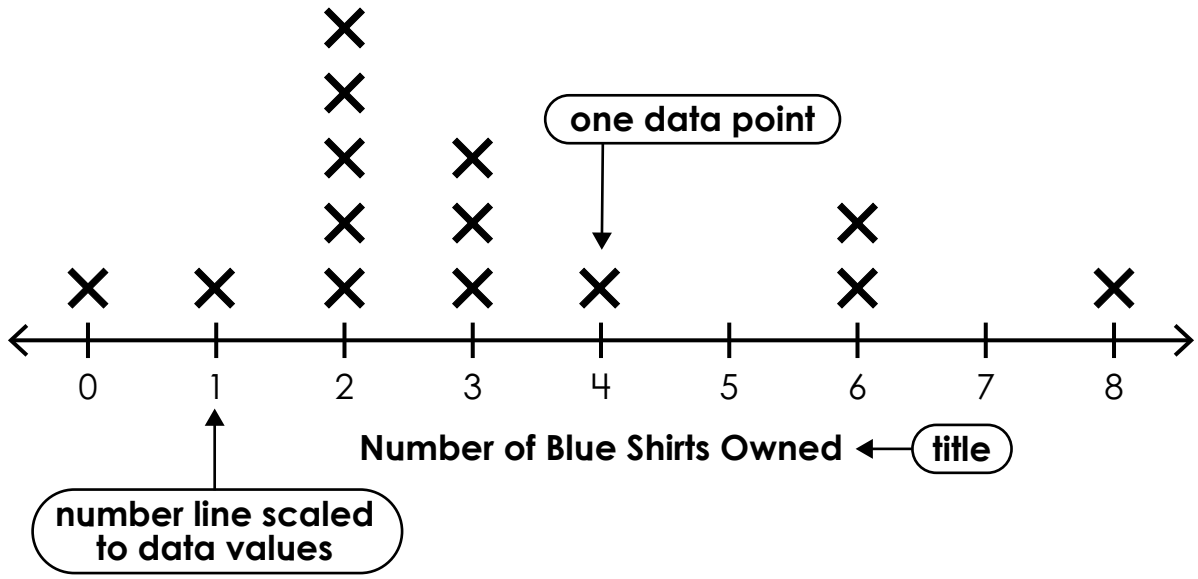
Step 1: Collect your data.

Number of blue shirts classmates own:
2, 3, 6, 2, 2, 1, 3, 2, 4, 0, 6, 3, 8, 2

Step 2: Draw a horizontal number line. Don't forget the arrows at the ends! Label a scale that makes sense for your data values, such as whole numbers or fractions. Then give a title.

Step 3: Use an ✕ to plot each data point above the correct number on the number line. Stack the ✕ marks for repeated values.

Tip: Cross off each data point you plot to make sure you don't repeat or skip any.



Note: Line plots should not be confused with line graphs, which use connected points plotted on a two-axis graph to show changes in data over time.