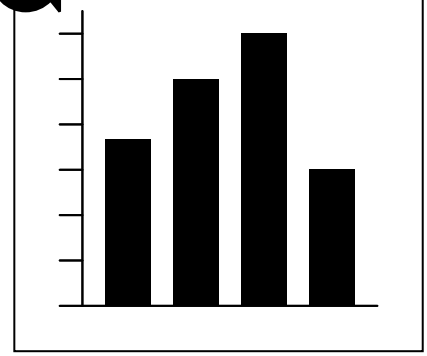
21 Looking at Data

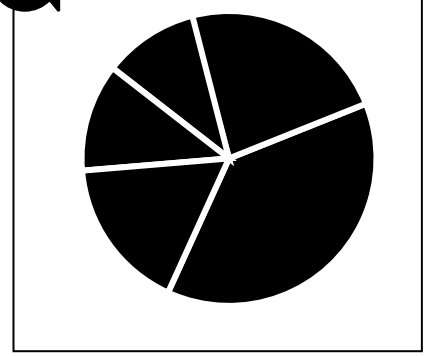
Researchers collect and use a lot of information (data) to do their work and sometimes the best way to work out what it's telling them is to use the data to create something visual we can analyse. One of the most common ways is to use graphs.

YOUR CHALLENGE: Using the descriptions below, can you work out which graph is showing which set of data?

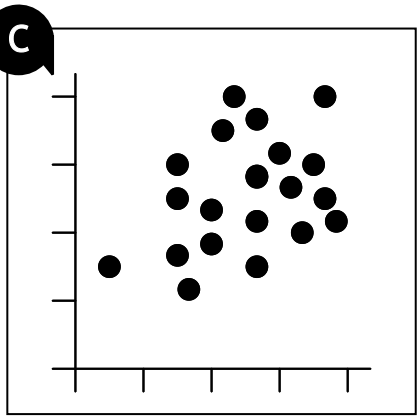
A



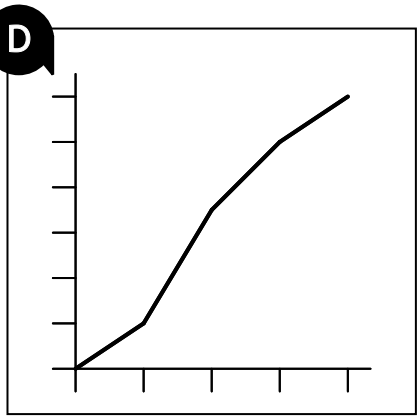
B



C



D



1. ☐ How much of the pie each person ate
2. ☐ The distance a car has travelled each minute it has been moving
3. ☐ How much fun versus how hard each person found running a marathon
4. ☐ How many people living in different areas enjoy riding a bike

Lauren works in the School of Engineering and her research takes how we view data to the next level! She creates computer models, called simulations, that are built from lots and lots of data, collected by different researchers, to show what might happen if we combined different actions or materials or processes.

Lauren's work means she, and others, can create a computer model of an experiment or a test without needing to actually do it. This saves researchers time, money and materials, as well as being a safer option if the experiments are dangerous.