

Lesson Plan

Stats, Graphs, and Charts

Book: *Great Careers in Sports*

Series: Great Careers

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students practice using graphs and charts to answer questions about sports statistics.

Supplies

- *Great Careers in Sports* book
- Green Bay Packers Statistics & Players: <https://www.pro-football-reference.com/teams/gnb/2020.htm>
 - Note: You can also use the Statistics & Players page for any team that is popular in your area
- Team Stats worksheet (attached)
- Computer access for students
- Pencils

Before the Activity

Divide the class into groups of four or five students. Print a Team Stats worksheet for each team. Read *Great Careers in Sports*, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Many jobs in sports involve working with statistics. According to the book's glossary on page 31, *statistics* is "a branch of mathematics focused on finding patterns in data." The data that people are looking at are numbers: the number of games a team wins, the number of goals a soccer player scores, the number of yards a football player runs, etc.

These numbers are often shown in graphs or charts to make them easier to understand. For example, open the book to page 7 and have students look at the graph in the sidebar. Ask the following questions:

- Based on this graph, which major sports league had the most available jobs in 2021? (Answer: the NFL)
- Which had the least? (Answer: the WNBA)
- Were more available jobs in the NHL or in MLB? (Answer: MLB had more jobs.)

Charts can also make information easier to understand. To help students practice using charts, divide students into their groups and pass out the worksheets. Help each group pull up the website showing Green Bay Packers Statistics & Players. (Alternatively, you may choose the Statistics & Players page of any team that is popular in your area.) Ask students to use the charts on this website to find the answer to each question on the worksheet. Sometimes, more than one player may have the same stat. If this happens, students can write all those players' names as their answer.

Evaluation

Collect the worksheets at the end of class, and give each group 1 point for each correct answer, for a total of up to 12 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 4 (RI 4.7), and mathematics standards, grade 4 (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.4.MD.A.2).

Team Stats

Passing

1. Which player(s) had the most passing yards (Yds)?
2. Which player(s) had the most touchdown passes (TD)?

Rushing

3. Which player(s) had the most rushing attempts (Att)?
4. Which player(s) had the most rushing touchdowns (TD)?

Receiving

5. Which player(s) had the most receptions (Rec)?
6. Which player(s) had the most receiving touchdowns (TD)?

Kick & Punt Returns

7. Which player(s) had the most kick returns (Rt)?
8. Which player(s) had the most yards per kick return (Y/Rt)?

Defense & Fumbles

9. Which player(s) had the most solo tackles (Solo)?
10. Which player(s) had the most sacks (Sk)?
11. Which player(s) had the most interceptions (Int)?
12. Which player(s) had the longest interception return (Lng)?