Data Gems

PLIX

What data is meaningful to you?

Things about yourself!
What are your interests, moods, or habits?
What are things you like to wear or eat?

Friends and Family
What do you like doing with your friends or family?
What are things they like to do that's different from what you do?

Comparing stuff
What is similar?
What is different?
What is interesting?

	grass	carrots
fun	✓	✗
tasty	✓	✓

Environment around you
How comfortable is a room?
What's the weather?
How noisy is it?
What are other people doing?

Events going on in the world
How it makes you (or other people) feel?
What do you notice?

This zine was created by the MIT Public Library Innovation Exchange (PLIX), inspired by Ada Ren-Mitchell's multimodal gesture research at MIT RLE Speech Communication Group.

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Data Gems activity guide

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plix.mit.edu

Your Data, Your Rules!

Color: What color would you choose to show the kinds of people in your life?

friends family

Shapes and symbols: What shape or symbol would you use for different kinds of snacks?

sweet chewy salty spicy

Direction or rotation: What direction would you use for different feelings?

Confident Inspired Sleepy

Data Representations
Presenting data in simpler ways helps you more easily see trends and patterns

Size: How might you use size to show different levels of _____?

Smaller means ---------- Bigger means

Line variations: What kind of lines would you draw to show different connections?

Connected
Less close
Very close

In **cryptography**, people create secret codes to hide information. Only the people who know what it means (or people who break the code) can understand it!

How will you collect and track your data?

There are many ways to track the information that's interesting to you.

Using beads on wearables like bracelets helps you easily track the number of times _____ happens

Keeping a data journal can help you collect or track data about your _____

Tying knots on a rope can help you track the number of times you _____

Many smartphone apps help track the steps you take, or the hours you sleep

What can data do?

Data can help us notice trends and patterns

Some people feel sadder on rainy days!

Data can help us decide what to do next

Lots of data can help show a bigger picture

People (even scientists!) have different **perspectives** that help them notice and put value on different things! This affects how they collect and represent data.

These perspectives may lead to **bias**, or unfair treatment of groups of people.