Analyzing a Graph

The two **most common** Social Studies skills required when analyzing graphs are:

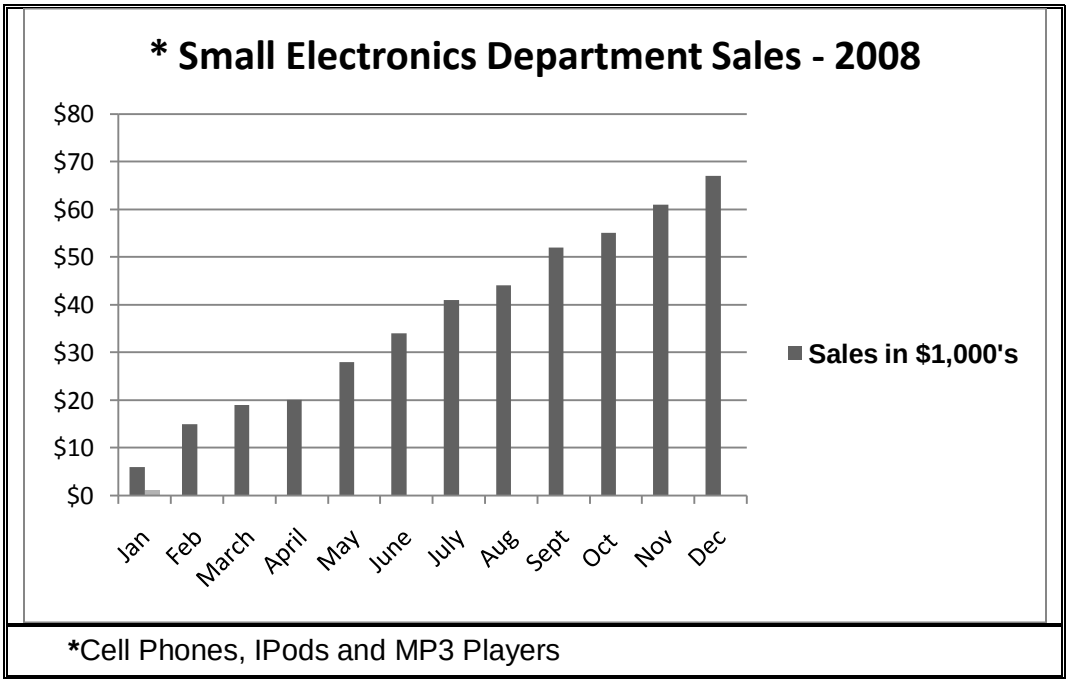
A. Identifying a **generalization** based on a graph
B. Identifying an **inference** (logical conclusion) based on a graph

It is important to remember that **identifying a generalization or inference is NOT accomplished** by identifying statistical or other information obtained by simply reading the graph. For example:

- April sales were $20,000.
- The graph shows how many Cell Phones, IPods and MP3 Players were sold.

1. Read everything.

- Title(s)
- Legend/Key Information
- Labels on the X axis and Y Axis
- Footnotes if there are any



2. Look for trends or patterns.
3. Think of the best way to describe any trends or patterns. Accurate vocabulary is important.

Generalization

1 Weak: April sales were $20,000.
2 Acceptable: Small electronics sales have increased.
3 Strong: Small electronics sales have risen **significantly.**

Inference

1 Weak: The graph shows how many Cell Phones, IPods and MP3 Players were sold.
2 Acceptable: Cell phone sales should increase in 2009.
3 Strong: Small electronic devices are growing in popularity. **OR** The employees in the Small Electronics Department are skilled sales people.