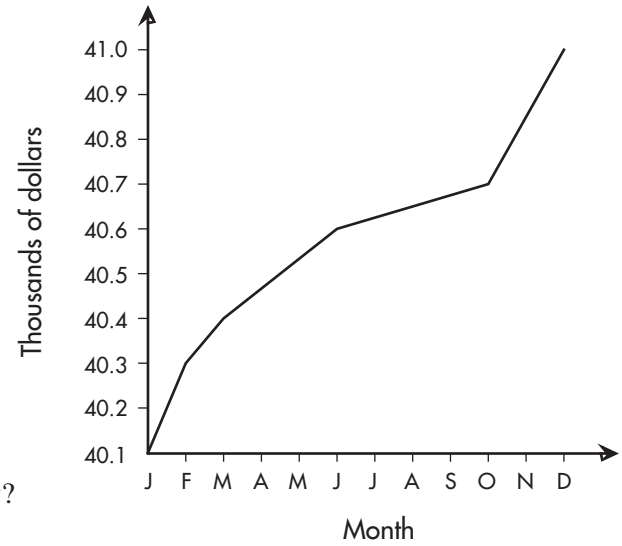
Worksheet 9-10 Misleading graphs

Graphs don't always tell the story as it really is. They can mislead people and at times are deliberately used in this way.

1 The Brown Disc company presented the following graph to show its profits over the year.



a What impression does this graph give?

_____

b What is misleading about this graph?

_____

c Why do you think the company would present this graph?

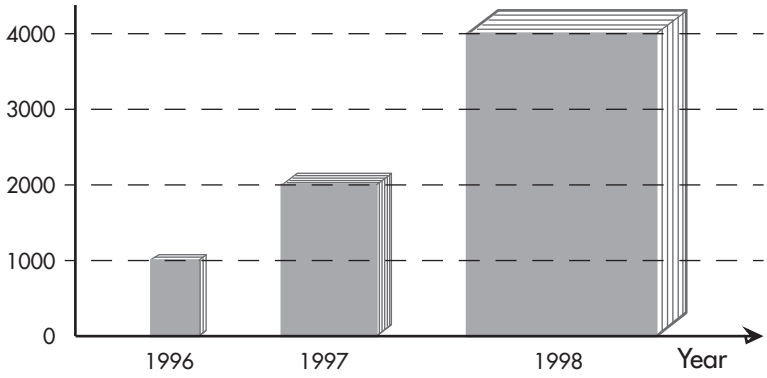
_____

d Draw another graph which truly reflects the profits of this company.

e What does your version of the graph show?

_____

2 This graph shows the sale of books in a store over three years.



a In what way is this graph misleading?

_____

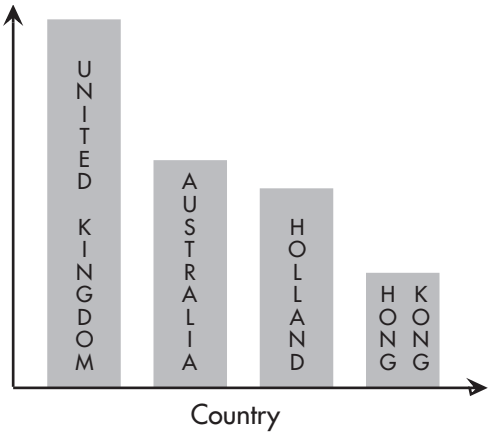
b Give the number of books sold in:

i 1996 _____

ii 1997 _____

iii 1998 _____

3 This graph shows how much money Japan invests in some countries.



a How is this graph misleading?

_____

_____

b Assuming that the figures are:

United Kingdom	\$6.8 billion
Australia	\$4 billion
Holland	\$3.2 billion
Hong Kong	\$2 billion

Redraw the graph correctly.

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Worksheet 9-10 Misleading graphs *continued*

Answers

1 **a** There has been a big increase in profits
b The vertical scale only goes from 40 to 41
c To impress shareholders, etc.
d Teacher to check
e Profits have only increased slightly

2 **a** Pictures show volume (3-D) rather than a column
b **i** 1000 **ii** 2000 **iii** 4000

3 **a** No vertical scale
b Teacher to check

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