

What data is in a piece of fruit?

This exercise will help participants understand how data can be found everywhere and also how when context changes, so does the data.

- **People:** 2 to 16 people
- **Time:** 20 Minutes
- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Materials:** A piece of fruit for each participant (or one per pairs)- i.e, an apple or orange. Something that people can hold without it being messy. Get another kind of fruit if you want to run the extra credit exercise



Flipchart paper and markers.



THE EXERCISE

Pass out a piece of fruit to each participant (apples work great). Get participants to break into pairs and make a list of all the different data they think the apple contains or represent. Likely they will come up with answers around nutrition (calories, vitamins, sugar) and prices, place grown, etc.

After they have had five minutes, ask them to think about what data would come from a bushel of the fruit.

Then in a large group discussion, get them to share their answers. Point out how the data they find will often depend on what they are going to do with the fruit, for example:

- If I'm going to buy the fruit, I want to know the variety, price, the date it was picked, and where it was picked.
- If I'm going to eat the fruit, I may want to know about nutritional values, ie. vitamins contained, calorie.
- If I have a bushel of fruit, I may want to know how much they are going for at market. If I'm a fruit picker, I may want to know how much I can get paid for a bushel of fruit and how long it will take me to pick a bushel.

Ask participants to think about any other scenarios they can think of that would lead them to different data about the fruit.

Extra Credit:

Pass out another kind of fruit and ask, what data will this fruit have that is the same as the other piece of fruit. (To raise issues of standardisation).

CREDIT

Adapted from [A Data Strategy Workshop Curriculum](#), Dirk Slater, FabRiders