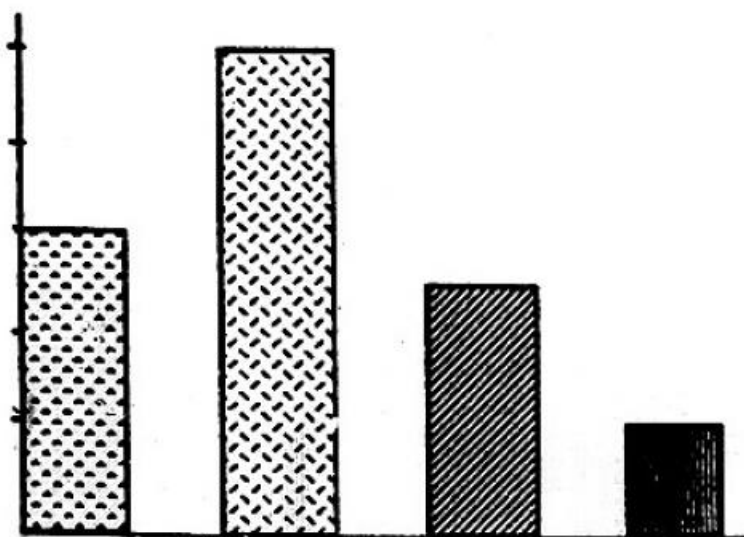


## Bar Graph Open Questions

Another related approach is the use of open questions. These potentially have the advantage of enabling students to respond in a variety of ways, according to their level of understanding. One of the simplest yet powerful examples of this is the following task, developed by Peter Sullivan (Figure 1).



What do you think this might be the graph of?

Put names and numbers on the graph to show what you mean.

Write down three things which you know from your graph.

*Figure 1.*

Students appreciated the opportunity to choose the context for this problem. Barbara Clarke and I used it with over 100 Grade 5 students. Although 12 students used the context of 'favourite sports' or 'sports I play' and 6 used 'favourite pets', *every other* context chosen by the students was unique.