Number Talks--Fourth Grade Measurement Unit

To begin thinking about how data is represented and meaning of graphs:

DAY ONE:

Teacher uses a drawing or image below:

Students are invited to think about the image above.

What is this?

What could it represent?

What is true about the graph?

Students should eventually get to the idea of “double” and “half” as well as form ideas about what the graph could be about, that the blocks represent data.

DAY 2

Same image as above:

Teacher invites students to think about giving values to the graph.

If necessary, teacher can scaffold with the idea of “If, then.”

If this bar (pointing to the smaller) has a value of 10, then can you figure out the value of the larger bar?

Students give answers and justify their thinking.

DAY 3

Same as above, but teacher begins with the larger bar, and possibly a higher value number depending on students’ readiness.