

# *Step-by-Step* Plotting Data Using Tabletop

There are a variety of ways to plot your information in Tabletop. Each plot analyzes the data in a different way. For this Step-by-Step Card, you will use the Helpful database.

## **Using stack plots**

The stack plot is a frequency distribution representation of certain values within one field of a database. Icons are stacked according to categories or numerical ranges.

### **Creating a stack plot**

- 1 Double-click the Helpful.db icon located in the Tabletop Data folder.  
**Note:** A dialog box appears stating “Tabletop needs to run in 256 colors.” Click the 256 colors button to proceed.
- 2 Click the Tabletop button in the upper-right corner of the Helpful.db window.



- 3 Click the Stack button in the lower-left corner of the window.



The icons are arranged in one big stack.

- 4 Position the pointer on the X-axis and hold down the mouse button, then choose State from the pop-up menu.

The axis is automatically labeled “State” and the icons rearrange into stacks. Notice that the Other column label is a button. Click the Other button. The states that comprise that column are listed.

- 5 Click Other and select GA. GA is now separated from Other and is a column.

### **Moving stacks**

- 1 Drag CA to just the right of MA.

## Axis plots

You can compare multiple values from one field against multiple values in another field.

- 1 Click the Axis button at the bottom-left of the window.



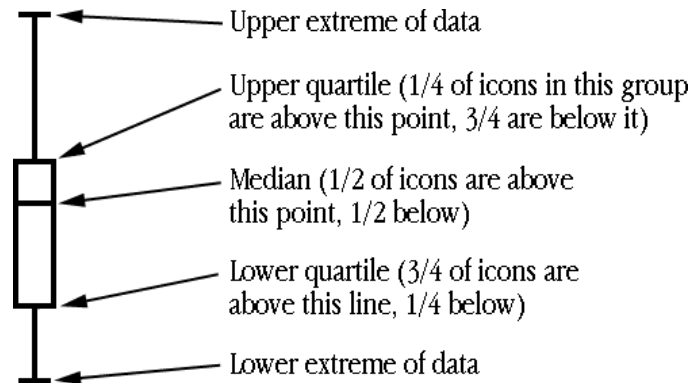
The axes are labeled X-axis and Y-axis until you select the fields.

- 2 Position the pointer on the X-axis and hold down the mouse button; then choose Region from the pop-up menu.
- 3 Position the pointer on the Y-axis and hold down the mouse button; then choose Blind Person from the pop-up menu.

The icons move to line up with the axes based on their data values. You can change the selections for the X and Y-axes at any time and the icons rearrange themselves accordingly.

## Box plots

A box plot shows the median, the range, and the quartiles of a set of numbers. You create a box plot by overlaying statistical information on an axis plot. A “box” encloses the interquartile range (the range in which the middle half of the data points fall); a line through the box indicates the median; and “whiskers” extend to the extreme values.



- 1 Make an Axis plot with Region as the X axis and Blind Person as the Y axis.
- 2 Choose Box Plots from the Tabletop main menu.

The box plot whiskers provide additional information about the data.

- 3 Save your file.
- 4 When you're done, quit the Tabletop application.