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Developing box plots while navigating the maze of data representations.

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Summary: The learning sequence described in this article was developed to provide students with a demonstration of the development of box plots from authentic data as an illustration of the advantages gained from using multiple forms of data representation. The sequence follows an authentic process that starts with a problem to which data representations provide the solution. The advantage of using box plots is that they allow clear and efficient comparison of related data sets. In this case, students are given a maze on paper and timed while they complete it. This produces the first set of data. They then attempt the maze again, expecting that their time to do this will decrease. The need to compare these two data sets arises from the question, “Did the group improve their maze times on their second attempt?” (ERIC)

Classification: K40

Keywords: data analysis; box plots; representation of data