



Handout - Music Industry Data Graphing Activity (Teacher's Guide)

Whitney Houston is in the Top 20 of the Recording Industry Association of America's Top Artist sales. According to the RIAA, she has sold an estimated 60 million albums in the United States and nearly 130 million albums worldwide. Below is a list of her top selling albums. Note that the data is the number of albums ("units") sold, not currency amounts of sales income.

Part 1: Using current data from the RIAA site, fill in how many units of each Whitney Houston album sold in the below chart:

Albums in Chronological Order	Units Sold (in millions) (Based on Data Retrieved September 2021)
<i>Whitney Houston</i> (1985)	13
<i>Whitney</i> (1987)	10
<i>I'm Your Baby Tonight</i> (1990)	4
<i>The Bodyguard: Original Soundtrack Album</i> (1992)	18
<i>The Preacher's Wife: Original Soundtrack Album</i> (1996)	3
<i>My Love is Your Love</i> (1998)	4
<i>Whitney: The Greatest Hits</i> (2000)	5
<i>Just Whitney</i> (2002)	1
<i>One Wish: The Holiday Album</i> (2003)	0.5
<i>I Look to You</i> (2009)	1
<i>I Will Always Love You: The Best of Whitney Houston</i> (2012)	0.5

Part 2: Prepare to plot Houston’s sales data as a line graph by considering the following questions. Try to be as detailed as possible with all labels in the graph.

1. Viewing the data table, what will be the title of your graph?

Whitney Houston Album Sales in the United States

2. Viewing the data table, what will be the titles for each axis?

x-axis: “Albums in Chronological Order”

y-axis: “Sales in Millions of Units”

3. What will you list on the x-axis under each plotted data point?

Album names and release years

4. Thinking in increments of 5, what will the top number on the y-axis need to be so you can include all data points for album units sold?

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Once you have answered all the questions, label the blank line graph on page 3.

Part 3: Plot Houston’s sales data as a line graph by placing points on the appropriate areas of the x- and y-axis, then draw a line connecting the points.

Part 4: Answer the questions below to provide an analysis of the plotted data:

1. What are Whitney Houston’s 3 highest selling albums (4 million units and above)?

Whitney Houston, Whitney, I’m Your Baby Tonight, The Bodyguard: Original Soundtrack Album, My Love is Your Love, Whitney: The Greatest Hits

2. What are her lowest selling albums (3 million units and below)?

The Preacher’s Wife: Original Soundtrack Album, Just Whitney, One Wish: The Holiday Album, I Look to You, I Will Always Love You: The Best of Whitney Houston

3. What years were her highest selling albums released?

1992, 1985, 1987

4. Are there any trends you notice in her sales data?

She started her career with a album that sold well, peaked in 1992 with the Bodyguard Soundtrack, then began selling less albums, with the exception of 2000’s Greatest Hits album.

5. What do you notice about her album sales starting around the year 2000?

They started declining.

Whitney Houston Album Sales in the United States

