**Cell Phone Project**

Introduction: Cell phones can be expensive. Below, there are four competing companies (Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, and Cricket) that offer cell phone plans. Here’s a quick explanation of what goes in to a cell phone plan:

* The original cost of a phone. It may run from $0 (if you get a free upgrade) to $299 if you’re looking for a wonderful, new smartphone. A basic phone is one which is traditionally only used for texting or phone calls. We’ll assume it can take and send pictures. A smartphone is one which accesses the internet, uses apps, etc., and is usually seen in the form of an Android phone or iPhone. The costs of a few common phones are below. Of course, when you go to actually buy a phone (especially a smartphone), you don’t necessarily pick the cheapest phone, but that will be for another day. Assume a basic phone is free with a contract.
* The monthly cost of a phone. Most companies require you to pay a monthly fee for a basic phone and a slightly higher one for a smartphone. You are usually locked in to either a one-year contract or a two-year contract.
* The data plan for a phone. Data is charged for anything besides texts and phone calls that one makes on a cellular network. (There are no charges if your phone is hooked up to a wireless network.) These data charges come from using YouTube or most apps that connect the internet, streaming music, browsing the internet, emails, and GPS features. You pay for a certain amount of data each month. If you go over that limit, your account is charged fairly heavy penalties. Some companies let multiple phones on the same account share a data plan (for example, three phones might share a 2 gigabyte plan), while others require each phone to buy their own data plan. For a person who is always on a wireless network, or doesn’t use most of the features of a smartphone, 1 GB (gigabyte) of data is plenty. Others may need 2 GB or more.

Project: In your group of four, design a poster that explains each of the scenarios below. Each person’s handwriting should be represented equally. You must find a way to represent some of the data graphically.

1. Mr. and Mrs. Waddell needs a new cell phone plan. Find the cost per month and per year for 3, 4 and 5 smartphones (we have extended family on our plan and need to decide if we want them to remain on there.)
2. Graphically show the costs over time (per month and per year) and make sure the full cost is communicated.
3. Mrs. Waddell isn’t very good at math, so you need to clearly communicate your decisions.

Verizon and AT&T (yes they were the same cost) Phones and Costs

<http://www.verizonwireless.com/wcms/consumer/shop/shop-data-plans/more-everything.html>

<http://www.att.com/shop/wireless/plans/mobileshare.html>



Net10 - http://sale.net10wireless.com/backtoschool

T-Mobile - <http://www.t-mobile.com/cell-phone-plans/family.html>

