

Using Data to Observe our Changing Planet

How the scientific community collects and uses data is changing.

The purpose of this activity is to illustrate the difference between discrete (data collected on a periodic basis), versus continuous data (data collected on a very frequent and continuous basis), and how the two types of data can reveal different information or stories.

Review the following series of photographs and create a story about what has happened.

















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On the Student Worksheet, write a description (frame by frame) of what you think the girl in the pictures is doing.

Once you complete the description, go to the next slide and watch the video, an example of continuous data.

Now for what really happened...
(Continuous Data)



Write a description of what the girl actually did.

Does the story you deduced from the still photographs match what happened in the video?

Which method gave you more information about what she was doing?

A. Photographs

or

B. Video

Scientists attempt to interpret events and processes that occur in the ocean based on the data available to them.

The more data that can be collected to fill in the unknown gaps, the more accurately scientists can interpret the hidden world of the ocean.