

Activity 1.4 Drawing a Trend Line Worksheet

1. Look at your arctic ice graph from Activity 1.3. Using words, try to describe the general trend that you see in the graph. What does it look like is happening overall?

2. Look at this different graph of maximum ice cover on Lake Superior. Does this have a positive trend, a negative trend, or no change? Let's practice drawing a trend line.

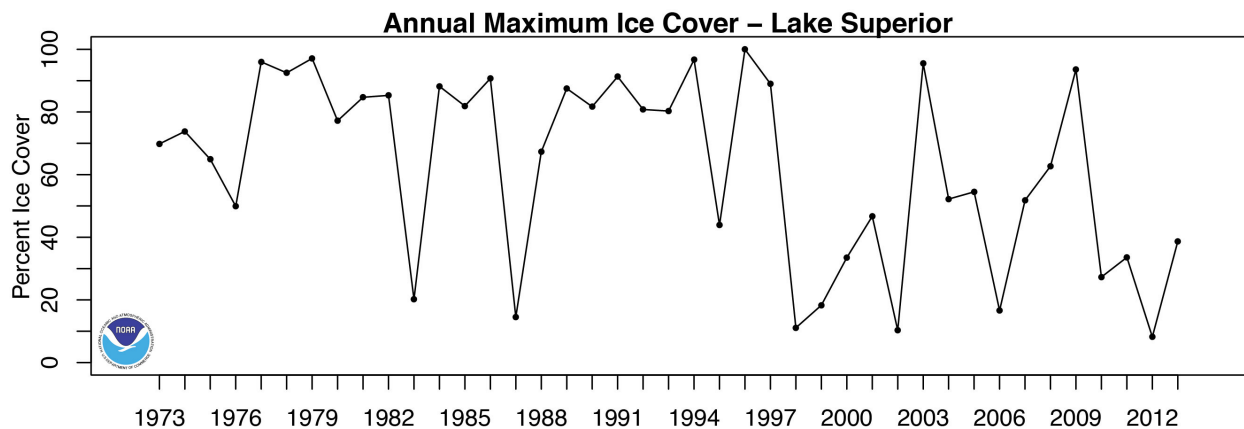
Step 1: Connect the dots (this is already done below).

Step 2: Divide the picture into sections by drawing vertical lines on the graph every five years.

Step 3: Calculate the average of the data points within each five year time periods.

Step 4: Place one dot in the middle of each section that shows the average for that time period.

Step 5. Draw a line to connect the new dots.



Credit: NOAA <http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/pgs/ice.html>

Use this space to make notes and calculations if needed:

3. Look at the trend line on the graph above to determine if the trend is positive (goes up from left to right), negative (goes down from left to right), or if there is no change (stays flat). Is there a positive trend, a negative trend, or no change? How do you know?

4. What does this trend line tell you about what is happening to ice on Lake Superior? Write a description here in your own words.
