

Introduction to Statistics: Mean, Median, Mode & Range

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will collect a real data set and calculate its mean, median, mode, and range.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- paper
- pencil
- calculator
- a household item to count/measure (e.g., shoes, books, or a bag of candy/coins)

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Collect a data set of at least 10 numbers by measuring or counting something real: ages of family members, number of pages in 10 books, or weights/counts of small household items.
2. List your 10+ data points in order from least to greatest on your paper.
3. Calculate the mean (show the sum and division), median, mode (or 'no mode' if none), and range of your data set.
4. Circle the median directly in your ordered list to show how you found it.
5. Write one sentence describing what your data set was and what the mean tells you about it.

QUESTIONS

1. What was your data set, and what are your 10+ ordered values?
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2. What are the mean, median, mode, and range of your data? Show your calculations.
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3. Which measure (mean, median, or mode) best represents your data, and why?
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4. If you added one extremely large outlier to your data, which measure would change the most: mean or median?
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