

Chapter 14 Measures of Central Tendency

Dear Family,

In this chapter, your student will learn about using measures of central tendency to describe data sets. Some of the skills your student will practice are:

- finding the mean, median, or mode of a data set
- using the mean, median, and mode of a data set to solve problems

Activity

Being able to summarize a data set with measures of central tendency is a skill that your student will use in classes in many different subjects. You can help your student practice finding the mean, the median, and the mode of a data set with this activity.

- With your student, collect 8 pieces of data related to one topic. For example, you could record the calories on the labels of 8 food items in your kitchen, or count the numbers of cars parked on 8 blocks near your home.
- Find the mean of your data: Add up the data and divide by the number of items, 8.
- Find the median of your data: Write the data in order from least to greatest and find the average of the fourth and fifth numbers.
- Find the mode of your data: Look for the number that appears most frequently in the data set. If each number appears only once, there is no mode. If two numbers have the same frequency, the data set has two modes.
- Discuss with your student whether you think the *mean*, the *median*, or the *mode* is most typical of the other numbers in your data set. Explain your choice.

Vocabulary to Practice

To find the **mean** of a data set, add all the items in the set and divide by the number of items. The mean is also called the **average** of a data set.

The **median** of a data set is the middle number when the data are arranged in order from least to greatest. If the data set has an even number of values, the median is the average of the two middle numbers.

The **mode** of a set of data is the value or item that appears most frequently. A set of data may have more than one mode, or no mode.



Online Resources

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