LESSON MAKER PRO

Center That Fits

Choose a useful center for real-world data.

GRADE 6 · 6.DSP.A.23.a

6.DSP.A.23.a "Determine which measure of center best represents a real-world data set."

NAME _____ DATE _____

MEAN OR MEDIAN?

Use the mean when values are fairly close together. Use the median when one value is much higher or lower than the rest, because that value can pull the mean away from a typical result.

WORKED EXAMPLE

The dot plot shows minutes spent reading on five days. Which measure best represents a typical day?



1. Add: 10 + 10 + 12 + 12 + 28 = 72.
2. Mean: 72 / 5 = 14.4. Median: 12.
3. The high value pulls the mean up, so choose the median.

Answer: Median, 12 minutes.

PRACTICE 4 problems

1 Five quiz scores are 4, 5, 5, 5, 6. Choose the mean or median, and give its value.

ANSWER _____

2 Five daily step counts, in thousands, are 3, 4, 4, 4, 25. Choose the mean or median, and give its value.

ANSWER _____

3 Five game scores are 14, 15, 16, 16, 19. Choose the mean or median, and give its value.

ANSWER _____

4 Five wait times are 9, 9, 9, 11, 27 minutes. Choose the mean or median, and give its value.

ANSWER _____

APPLY IT Show your work

1 The dot plot shows how long five students spent editing a video clip. Which measure best represents a typical editing time? Give its value.



ANSWER _____

2 A player scores 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 points in five rounds. Which measure best represents a typical score? Give its value.

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

CHALLENGE One step up

A player's five scores are 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. The last score is corrected to 23. Which measure best represents the scores before the correction and after it? Give both values and explain your choices.

WORK SPACE AND ANSWER

ANSWER KEY

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PART 1 · PRACTICE

#	PROBLEM	ANSWER
1	Five quiz scores are 4, 5, 5, 5, 6. Choose the mean or median, and give its value.	**Mean, 5.**
2	Five daily step counts, in thousands, are 3, 4, 4, 4, 25. Choose the mean or median, and give its value.	**Median, 4 thousand steps.**
3	Five game scores are 14, 15, 16, 16, 19. Choose the mean or median, and give its value.	**Mean, 16 points.**
4	Five wait times are 9, 9, 9, 11, 27 minutes. Choose the mean or median, and give its value.	**Median, 9 minutes.**

PART 2 · APPLY IT

1. **Median, 4 minutes.** The middle time is 4 minutes. The 24-minute time pulls the mean up to 8 minutes, so the median better represents a typical time.
2. **Mean, 5 points.** The scores are evenly spread, with no unusually high or low value. Their sum is 25, so the mean is 25 / 5 = 5 points.

CHALLENGE

Before: mean, 6 points, because the scores are evenly spread. After: median, 6 points, because 23 is much higher than the other scores and pulls the mean up.

Accept the median for a set with a much higher value and the mean for a set without one. In the challenge, the corrected mean is 9, while the median remains 6.