

Questions That Count

Write questions that help you collect useful data.

GRADE 3 • 3.PS.1.a

3.PS.1.a "Formulate questions that require the collection or acquisition of data."

NAME _____

DATE _____

ASK FOR DATA

A data question asks a group for information that is not already known. Say what you want to learn, and make sure each person can give an answer you can record.

WORKED EXAMPLE

A library wants to learn where 18 third graders like to read. Write a survey question.

1. Name the group: 18 third graders.
2. Choose what to learn: each student's favorite reading place.
3. Ask for one answer from each student.

Answer: Which place do you like best for reading?

PRACTICE 6 problems

- 1** Your class wants to learn how many pets students have. Write a survey question for every student.

ANSWER _____

- 2** A coach wants to learn which playground game students like best. Write a survey question.

ANSWER _____

- 3** Your teacher wants to know how many minutes students read at home last night. Write a survey question.

ANSWER _____

- 4** The cafeteria wants to learn which fruit students chose for lunch. Write a survey question.

ANSWER _____

- 5** Your class wants to learn how many books students have in their backpacks today. Write a survey question.

ANSWER _____

- 6** The school wants to learn how students get to school. Write a survey question.

ANSWER _____

APPLY IT Show your work

- 1** The student council is planning an after-school game day. It needs to know whether more third graders want board games, sports games, or puzzle games. Write one question the council can ask.

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

- 2** Jayden wants to make a pictograph that shows how classmates travel to school. Write one question Jayden can ask. Make sure every student can give one answer.

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

CHALLENGE One step up

CHALLENGE

The principal wants to choose new recess equipment. Write two questions for students: one question with a number answer and one question with a category answer. Then explain in one sentence why the principal must collect data before deciding.

PART 1 • PRACTICE

#	PROBLEM	ANSWER
1	Your class wants to learn how many pets students have. Write a survey question for every student.	How many pets do you have?
2	A coach wants to learn which playground game students like best. Write a survey question.	Which playground game do you like best?
3	Your teacher wants to know how many minutes students read at home last night. Write a survey question.	How many minutes did you read at home last night?
4	The cafeteria wants to learn which fruit students chose for lunch. Write a survey question.	Which fruit did you choose for lunch?
5	Your class wants to learn how many books students have in their backpacks today. Write a survey question.	How many books are in your backpack today?
6	The school wants to learn how students get to school. Write a survey question.	How do you get to school?

PART 2 • APPLY IT

1. **Which do you want for game day: board games, sports games, or puzzle games?** Ask each third grader to choose one type of game. The council can count the answers for each choice.
2. **How do you travel to school?** Ask every classmate the same question. Record each student's travel method, then sort and count the answers.

CHALLENGE

Number question: How many minutes do you play outside at recess? Category question: Which recess equipment do you want most? The principal must collect students' answers to learn what students do and want.

Accept equivalent questions that clearly name what information is needed and allow one recordable answer from each person. For the challenge, accept any sensible number question, category question, and explanation that says answers must be collected before making a choice.