

Middle Matters

Find the value at the center of a data set.

GRADE 5 • 5.PS.2.c

5.PS.2.c "Describe and determine the median of a set of data values representing data from a given context as a measure of center."

NAME _____

DATE _____

FINDING THE MEDIAN

The median is the middle value when data are arranged from least to greatest. If there are two middle values, add them and divide by 2. The median describes the center of the data.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Find the median: 14, 3, 9, 20, 6

1. Put the values in order: 3, 6, 9, 14, 20.
2. There are 5 values, so the middle is the 3rd value.
3. The 3rd value is 9.

Answer: 9

PRACTICE 6 problems

1 Find the median: 12, 8, 18, 2, 16

ANSWER _____

2 Find the median: 1, 7, 13, 19

ANSWER _____

3 Find the median: 22, 15, 27, 24, 30

ANSWER _____

4 Find the median: 25, 4, 28, 32

ANSWER _____

5 Find the median: 35, 23, 31, 33, 29, 37

ANSWER _____

6 Find the median: 34, 11, 17, 38, 21, 39, 40

ANSWER _____

APPLY IT Show your work

- 1** Maya scored 42, 36, 48, 41, and 45 points in five rounds of a game. What was the median number of points she scored?

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

- 2** A reading club recorded the number of pages read by six students: 62, 54, 68, 58, 66, and 56. What was the median number of pages read?

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

CHALLENGE One step up

CHALLENGE

At a game club, the numbers of points earned by 7 players are 81, 79, 80, 82, 78, 83, and 150. Find the median. Explain why the median is a useful measure of center for these scores.

PART 1 • PRACTICE

#	PROBLEM	ANSWER
1	Find the median: 12, 8, 18, 2, 16	12
2	Find the median: 1, 7, 13, 19	10
3	Find the median: 22, 15, 27, 24, 30	24
4	Find the median: 25, 4, 28, 32	26
5	Find the median: 35, 23, 31, 33, 29, 37	32
6	Find the median: 34, 11, 17, 38, 21, 39, 40	34

PART 2 • APPLY IT

1. **42 points** Order the scores as 36, 41, 42, 45, 48. The middle score is 42 points.
2. **60 pages** Order the values as 54, 56, 58, 62, 66, 68. The two middle values are 58 and 62, and their average is 60.

CHALLENGE

The median is 81 points. It is a useful measure of center because 150 is much higher than the other scores and does not change the middle value.

Accept answers with values correctly ordered before the median is identified. For the challenge, accept explanations that note the unusually high score has little effect on the median.