

**Lesson
12.1**
Finding the Mean, Median, and Mode
Objectives

Identify the mean, median, and mode in a set of data and show that they may differ.

California Standards

SD 1.1 Know the concepts of mean, median, and mode; compute and compare simple examples to show that they may differ.

MR 1.2: Determine when and how to break a problem into simpler parts.

MR 2.3: Use a variety of methods, such as words, numbers, symbols, charts, graphs, tables, diagrams, and models, to explain mathematical reasoning.

Vocabulary/Phrases

Mean Median
Mode Data
Line plot

Teaching Strategies
Looking at data

Draw the chart of the year salaries at the ABC Company on **Textbook p. 122** on the board. Ask students what questions can be asked about the data in the chart. Lead students to see that we can look for different information in the chart (e.g. which employee earns the most/least; average salary; most common salary, etc). Discuss what the children have contributed.

Employee	Salary
Mr. Chowdhury	\$40,000
Miss Gallipoli	\$40,000
Mrs. Workman	\$40,000
Mr. Cruz	\$50,000
Mrs. Menchon	\$75,000
Mr. Capozzi	\$100,000

Finding the mean

Ask students what the average salary is based on the data given. Have students calculate the average salary by adding the values and dividing by the number of values. Remind students that mean is another word for average.

Mean: \$57,500

Finding the median

Ask students what the middle level employee earns? Write the salaries in order from the least to the greatest on the board and have students write them in their notebooks. Have students calculate the median by marking off pairs of values from the ends and finding the average of the two middle values. Remind students that the median is the middle number in a set of data. If there are two middle numbers, the median is the average of the two values.

Median: \$45,000