



About the Mathematics in This Unit (page 1 of 2)

Dear Families,

Our class is starting a new mathematics unit about data and probability called *Describing the Shape of the Data*. During this unit, students collect, represent, describe, and interpret data. Students also look at the probability of various events.

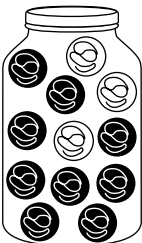
Throughout the unit, students work toward these goals:

BENCHMARKS/GOALS	EXAMPLES
Design an effective survey question to compare two groups.	<p>Data Topic: Who reads more books, fourth graders or seventh graders?</p> <p>Survey Question: How many books did you read last month?</p>
Organize and represent data about two groups in order to compare the groups.	<p>Fourth Graders</p> <p>Seventh Graders</p> <p>Number of Books</p>

(continued)



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BENCHMARKS/GOALS	EXAMPLES
Describe the shape of the data from a numerical data set, including where the data are concentrated and the highest, lowest, and median values.	<p>Most fourth graders read between 8 and 10 books last month.</p> <p>The median number of books read by fourth graders is 9 books.</p>
Use data to compare two groups.	<p>The fewest books a fourth grader read is 6. Almost half of the seventh-grade students read fewer than 6 books.</p> <p>The median in the seventh-grade data set (6 books) is lower than the median in the fourth-grade data set (9 books).</p>
Use evidence from a set of data to support an argument.	<p>Fourth-grade students in our study read more books than did seventh-grade students. Even though a few seventh graders read 10 books or more, most seventh graders were at or below the median for fourth graders.</p>
Describe the likelihood of an event in terms of a scale from impossible (probability of 0) to certain (probability of 1).	<p>It is less likely that you will pull a white marble out of this jar than a black marble. The probability of getting a white marble is between 0 and $\frac{1}{2}$.</p> 

Please look for more information and activities about *Describing the Shape of the Data* that will be sent home in the coming week.