

# How to Find the MEAN of Your Science Data

## What is mean?

The "mean" is the "average" you're used to, where you add up all the numbers and then divide by the number of numbers.

## How do calculate MEAN?

The mean is the usual average, so:

$$(13 + 18 + 13 + 14 + 13 + 16 + 14 + 21 + 13) \div 9 = 15$$

Note that the mean isn't a value from the original list. This is a common result. You should not assume that your mean will be one of your original numbers.

### Example 1: What is the Mean of these numbers?

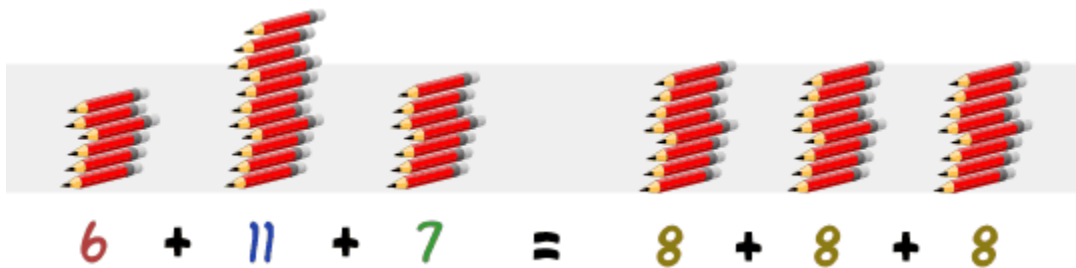
6, 11, 7

- Add the numbers:  $6 + 11 + 7 = 24$
- Divide by *how many* numbers (there are 3 numbers):  $24 \div 3 = 8$

**The Mean is 8**

## Why Does This Work?

It is because 6, 11 and 7 added together is the same as 3 lots of 8:



It is like you are "flattening out" the numbers