Measures of Center and Variation

Today's Standard

6.SP.A3 - Recognize that a measure of center for a numerical data set summarizes all of its values with a single number, while a measure of variation describes how its values vary with a single number.

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Analyzing average test scores in a class; Comparing the heights of students in a grade; Evaluating the spread of temperatures over a week; Summarizing the distribution of ages in a family; Assessing the range of times taken to complete a race

Today I Learned

Today, I learned how to find the center and spread of a group of numbers. This helps us understand what the numbers tell us.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Some kids think the center number is always the most common number. Others think one strange number can change the center a lot. We will learn why these ideas are not always true.

Quiz Me

- What is the mean?

- What is the median?

- What is the range?

- What happens to the mean if there is an outlier?

- What happens to the median if there is an outlier?

Help Me

Finding the center and spread of numbers helps us understand things like average test scores or how much people in a group differ in height. This is useful in real life to make sense of information.