Answers and talk notes

Describe the Data Using the Median

What your student is learning

Tonight we describe a data set using the median — the middle value when the numbers are put in order.

Answers

Ask your student to explain before you look.

1. **B.** The middle value when the numbers are in order. The median is the middle value when the numbers are in order. So the answer is: The middle value when the numbers are in order.
2. **A.** 5. The numbers are in order and the middle one is 5.
3. **D.** 5. In order: 2, 4, 5, 7, 9. The middle value is 5.
4. **B.** 15. In order: 11, 12, 15, 18, 20. The middle value is 15.
5. **C.** 4. The numbers are in order and the middle one is 4.
6. **A.** 6. In order: 3, 5, 6, 7, 8. The median is 6 miles.

Talk about it

What should you do to the list before you look for the middle?

Home mission

Write 4, 9, 2, 6 and 4 on five small papers and mix them up. Can your student put them in order and point to the middle one? Then ask what changes if you take away the 9.

When they are stuck, ask

- Are the numbers in order yet?
- How many numbers are there — odd or even?
- Which number is exactly in the middle?

Try not to say

- Add them all up and divide — that is the median.
- Just take the middle number of the list as it was written.
- With an even count there is no median.