

Date _____

Dear Family,

In this chapter, your child will learn how to collect, analyze, present and interpret data in order to solve real world problems. Advertisers present information to children of all ages. The ability to evaluate this information in order to make informed decisions is a skill your child will use throughout his or her life.

Data can be organized in various ways so that patterns and relationships are clearly visible. In one example, your child will be asked to use temperature data to make a table. The table can then be used to find a pattern in the data and draw conclusions.

At 10:00 A.M., the temperature was 62°F. At noon, it was 65°F. At 2:00 P.M., it was 68°F. At 4:00 P.M., it was 70°F. At 6:00 P.M., it was 66°F.

Time	Temperature (°F)
10:00 A.M.	62
12:00 noon	65
2:00 P.M.	68
4:00 P.M.	70
6:00 P.M.	66

Your child will be asked to find the range, mean, median, and mode of a set of data. These are important for analyzing the values at the center of the data.

Heights of Vertical Jumps (in.)						
13	23	21	20	21	24	18

First, the data is written in numerical order.

13, 18, 20, 21, 21, 23, 24

Range: $24 - 13 = 11$ Subtract the least value from the greatest value.

Mean: $13 + 18 + 20 + 21 + 21 + 23 + 24 = 140$ Add all values.

$140 \div 7 = 20$ Divide the sum by the number of items.

Median: 21 There is an odd number of items, so find the middle value.

Mode: 21 21 occurs most often.

The range is 11 in.; the mean is 20 in.; the median is 21 in.; and the mode is 21 in.

Your child will also learn to display and analyze data using graphs. One type of graph introduced is the bar graph.

The bar graph can be used to answer questions such as:

Which has the most rainfall?

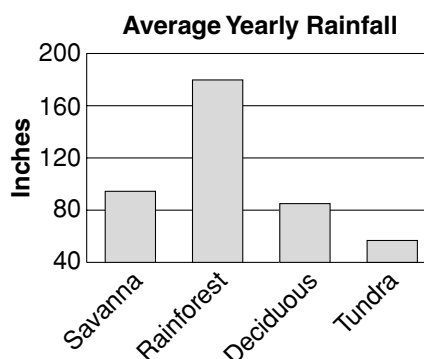
Find the highest bar.

The rain forest has the most rainfall.

Which have an average yearly rainfall greater than 80 inches?

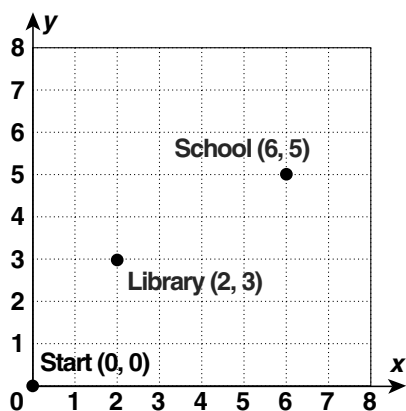
Find the bars whose heights measure greater than 80.

The savanna, the rain forest, and the deciduous forest have average yearly rainfalls greater than 80 inches.



Cities, towns, and neighborhoods are often laid out on a grid to make it easier to map and find locations. Your child will learn to use an **ordered pair** of numbers to locate specific points on a **coordinate plane**, as in this example:

You can use the coordinate plane to name the ordered pair for each location.



To find the library:
Start at (0, 0). Move right 2 units and then up 3 units.
The library is located at (2, 3).

To find the school:
Start at (0, 0) Move right 6 units and then up 5 units.
The school is located at (6, 5).

For additional resources, visit go.hrw.com and enter the keyword MR7 Parent.