

2**Family Letter**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We use math in many of our daily routines. One of the things we try to do in this class is relate activities in the classroom to activities in the real world. Making this connection will help students realize the importance of learning math concepts.

In **Chapter 2, Statistics and Graphs**, your child will be learning about bar graphs, line graphs, stem-and-leaf plots, line plots, mean, median, mode, range, selecting appropriate displays, and integers in the context of graphing. In the study of this chapter, your child will complete a variety of daily classroom assignments and activities and possibly produce a chapter project.

By signing this letter and returning it with your child, you agree to encourage your child by getting involved. Enclosed is an activity that you can do with your child that practices how the math we will be learning in Chapter 2 might be tested. You may also wish to log on to **www.msmath1.com** for self-check quizzes and other study help. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at school.

Sincerely,

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

2**Family Activity****State Test Practice**

Fold the page along the dashed line. Work each problem on another piece of paper. Then unfold the page to check your work.

1. Use the data on the table below to calculate the mean, median, mode, and range of the ages of people who worked at Whetstone Middle School's Spring Festival.

12	15	14	39	45	15
71	13	67	11	14	13
55	54	12	14	15	10
33	15	12	51	25	23

Which selection includes all of the correct answers?

- A** mean = 27; median = 15;
modes = 12 and 14; range = 81
- B** mean = 28; median = 15;
modes = 12 and 14; range = 61
- C** mean = 27; median = 15;
mode = 15; range = 61
- D** mean = 27; median = 15;
modes = 12 and 14; range = 61

Fold here.

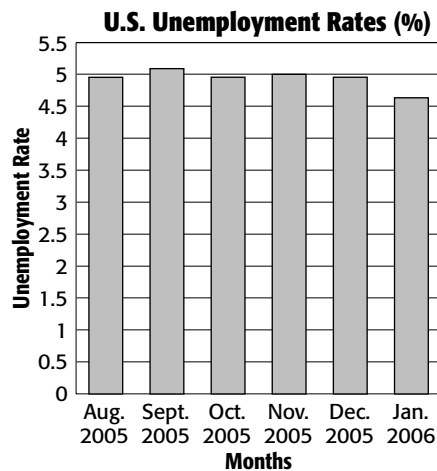
Solution

1. *Hint: It is always best to sort a large set of numbers from least to greatest when finding mean, median, mode, and range.*

To find the mean, add all the numbers then divide by how many numbers are in the set. There are 24 numbers, and the sum is 648. The mean is $648 \div 24$ or 27. This eliminates choice B. You need not calculate the median since all answer choices have the same value. The mode is the number or numbers that occur(s) most often in the set. In this set, 15 occurs most often. Only choice C has a mean of 27 and a mode of 15.

The answer is **C**.

2. Refer to the table below. During which month were U.S. citizens least likely to be unemployed?



Source: U.S. Department of Labor

- A** Aug., 2005 **C** Sept., 2005
- B** Jan., 2006 **D** Nov., 2005

Solution

2. U.S. Citizens are least likely to be unemployed when the employment rate is lowest, which corresponds with the shortest bar on the graph above. The shortest bar occurs in January, so that is when citizens are least likely to be unemployed.

The answer is **B**.