

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Visit a bank and have someone there explain to you about how interest works. Use the current interest rate and calculate how much interest different sums of money will earn.

**III. Statistics is collecting and organizing numerical information and studying patterns.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Explain the meaning of these statistical words and tools: *data, averaging, tally marks, bar graph, line graph, pie chart, and percentage.*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Conduct an opinion survey through which you collect data to answer a question, and then show your results with a chart or graph. For instance: What is the favorite food of the Cub Scouts in your pack (chart how many like pizza, how many like hamburgers, etc.).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Study a city newspaper to find as many examples as you can of statistical information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Learn to use a computer spreadsheet.

**IV. Probability helps us know the chance or likelihood of something happening.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Explain to your den how a meteorologist or insurance company (or someone else) might use the mathematics of probability to predict what might happen in the future (i.e., the chance that it might rain, or the chance that someone might be in a car accident).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Conduct and keep a record of a coin toss probability experiment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Guess the probability of your sneaker landing on its bottom, top, or side, and then flip it 100 times to find out which way it lands. Use this probability to predict how a friend's sneaker will land.

**V. Measuring is using a unit to express how long or how big something is, or how much of it there is.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Interview four adults in different occupations to see how they use measurement in their jobs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Measure how tall someone is. Have them measure you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Measure how you use your time by keeping a diary or log of what you do for a week. Then make a chart or graph to display how you spend your time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Measure, mix, and cook at least two recipes. Share your snacks with family, friends, or your den.

## Resources

Besides your local library and schools having resources, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics has many publications that are helpful to teachers, parents, and students.

**National Council of Teachers of Mathematics**  
1906 Association Drive  
Reston, VA 20191-1593  
Phone: 703-620-9840; Fax 703-476-2970  
Web site: <http://www.nctm.org>

## What Is Mathematics?

When most people think about mathematics, they think about adding and subtracting, multiplying and dividing, memorizing formulas, and other ways of working with numbers.

But making *calculations* is only one part of mathematics. Mathematics also includes recognizing shapes and forms (*geometry*); *measuring* the properties of things (how long, how wide, how deep, how fast, how far away, how hot, how cold, how much); collecting, organizing, and manipulating numerical information to better understand events (*statistics*); and finding out how likely it is that certain events will happen (*probability*).

## Everyday Mathematics

You use math every day and all around you without even thinking about it.

- You *measure* when you cook, build something, sew.
- You *count* when you use money, or even when you play music.
- You use math when you keep score at an athletic game or when you figure sports *statistics*, such as batting averages in baseball.
- You measure time when you *estimate* how long it will take you to walk to the store or when you'll get back from a movie.
- You use your knowledge of measurement and *fractions* when you cut a pizza into equal pieces.