

# 5 4 mean big ideas math

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### 5 Big Ideas in Mean Math

#### What is mean?

Mean is a measure of central tendency. It is the average of a set of numbers. To find the mean, we add up all the numbers and then divide by the number of numbers.

#### Example:

Find the mean of the following set of numbers: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10.

$$2 + 4 + 6 + 8 + 10 = 30$$

$$30 / 5 = 6$$

Therefore, the mean of the set of numbers is 6.

#### What is the difference between mean, median, and mode?

Mean, median, and mode are all measures of central tendency, but they are calculated differently.

- **Mean** is the average of all the numbers in a set.
- **Median** is the middle number in a set of numbers.
- **Mode** is the number that occurs most often in a set of numbers.

#### Example:

Find the mean, median, and mode of the following set of numbers: 2, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10.

- Mean =  $(2 + 2 + 4 + 6 + 8 + 10) / 6 = 5$
- Median = 5
- Mode = 2

### **When is mean a good measure of central tendency?**

Mean is a good measure of central tendency when the data is normally distributed. This means that the data is spread out in a bell-shaped curve.

#### **Example:**

The following set of scores is normally distributed: 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88.

The mean of this set of scores is 80. This is a good measure of central tendency because it represents the typical score in the set.

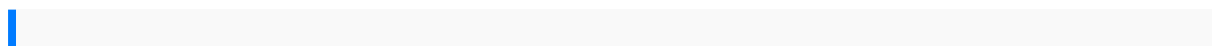
### **When is mean not a good measure of central tendency?**

Mean is not a good measure of central tendency when the data is skewed. This means that the data is spread out in a lopsided way.

#### **Example:**

The following set of scores is skewed to the right: 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 90, 100.

The mean of this set of scores is 70. This is not a good measure of central tendency because it is not representative of the typical score in the set.



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