Comparing Distributions
Mean

ngfl

Flood Alert

Description:
Making comparisons between sets of data using 'mean' as the way of comparing.

Numeracy Strategy reference:	Task analysis:
Compare two simple distributions using the range and one of the mode, median or mean.	What the children must be able to do: • Make comparisons, using mean, between sets of data.

Learning Objectives:
Calculate the mean for a small set of data.
That the word 'mean' is often referred to as 'average'. Use the mean as method of comparing average rainfall over a set period of time.

Suggested activities:
Oral work and mental calculation:
Introduce keywords – average, data, mean, add, divide, statistic.
Example activity: When Mark, Jimmy, Winnie and Dave went trick or treating they collected the following amounts of money: £8, £4, £3.50, 50p. How should they share it out? How much would they get each? Discuss as a class. If there were five of them would the amount be the same? Bring together the ideas and discuss new mathematical terms.

Work out precise method. Pupils to try calculating the mean of the following a) 3,5,2,6 b) £2.50, £3.50, £1, £5   c) 50, 150, 600, 30,70, 300.

Teaching activity:
Pupils should use the activity sheet and make comparisons between the different sets of data using 'mean' as the way of comparing. In groups, answer the questions.

Plenary:
Discuss individual / group findings with the class.
Example question: The weather department has made a mistake with one of the readings. The rainfall for April was really only 42mm. What effect did that one error have on the results?

Resources:
Mean rainfall activity sheet.

Learning outcomes:
Pupils will be able to interpret information / sets of data and make comparisons using the 'mean'.

Extension activities:
• Grimsby's mean rainfall from January to June for the previous year was 40mm. The readings for the first 5 months were 35mm, 40mm, 32mm, 55mm and 32mm. What was the last reading? (Answer 46mm) How would the children work it out?
• For more data visit the Met Office website (*www.met-office.gov.uk*) and find data from a weather station in the local area.