

**Description:** Calculating the Mode for a set of data.

**Numeracy Strategy reference:**

Find the mode of a small set of discrete data.  
For grouped frequency distribution find the modal class or modal group.  
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**Task analysis:**

Pupils must be required to:

- Read / interpret and complete tables.
- Carry out surveys and calculate modal from results.

**Learning Objectives:**

Calculate the mode or modal group / class.  
Pupils to understand that the mode is the only statistic for data based on non-numeric categories, e.g. the most common way of travelling to school.

**Suggested activities:**

**Oral work and mental calculation:**

Introduce the keywords – average, frequency, mode, modal group, modal class and data. Read out to the class the following list of numbers, asking them to write down the number that occurs most often.

4 5 7 8 7 3 5 7 2 2

Which was the mode?

Repeat this exercise a few times, using lists on the whiteboard composed of items, e.g. favourite colours. Ask pupils if they could find the mean or median in these list of colours.

**Teaching activity:**

Ask the pupils to look at the activity sheet and answer the series of questions. Some points covered may need further explanation. What if there is more than one mode? Answer that all the modes should be listed, e.g. the modes of 2 5 3 4 6 7 2 1 3 7 3 are 2 and 3.

**Plenary:**

Draw the following table on the OHP/whiteboard and do a class survey of shoe size.

Shoe size	1-2	3-4	4-5	6-8
Frequency				

Which is the modal class/group?

**Resources:**

Mode resource activity sheet.

**Learning outcomes:**

Pupils will be able to find the mode or modal group / class.  
Pupils should understand that mode is the only statistic for data based on non-numeric categories.

**Extension activities:**

Introducing continuous data.

A garden centre sells trees, the price for which is determined by the height of the tree. These are the sales figures for March:

Sales	150	220	110	41	2
Height range	$0 < H \leq 0.5\text{m}$	$0.5 < H \leq 1.0\text{m}$	$1.0 < H \leq 1.5\text{m}$	$1.5 < H \leq 2.0\text{m}$	$2.0 < H \leq 2.5\text{m}$

Which is the modal class/group?