

Average number of fish caught

Your task is to work out the average number of fish caught per month on the Severn Estuary. However, first you need to read the information below as a class and have a go at the task.

What does the
AVERAGE mean?

The average is just a way to try to spread an overall number between the number of attempts to get the overall number. For example, a fisherman went on two fishing trips and caught 100 fish overall. We can say he caught an average of 50 fish per trip, but actually he caught 78 on one trip and 22 on the other.

To find the average you just need to divide the overall number by the number of attempts it took to reach the overall number. For the above example it would be:

$$100 \text{ (the overall number)} \div 2 \text{ (the number of attempts)} = 50 \text{ (the average)}$$

Below is a table showing the fish caught by a fisherman on 8 different fishing trips:

Fisherman 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Fish caught	21	29	0	67	34	18	95	32

The total = 296 but the average would look like the table below if we spread the points equally over the different attempts ($296 \div 8 = 37$):

Fisherman 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Fish caught	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37

What is the average number of fish caught for this fisherman?

Fisherman 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	Average
Fish caught	8	6	12	15	2	17	

Name:

Class:

Date