

Estimation

Cross-Curricular Focus: Mathematics



When you don't need an exact answer, use **estimation**. It's a good way to quickly figure out a math problem. This skill can help you in real life.

When you are shopping with only a little money, you can estimate. You can round the cost of items up to the nearest dollar. Add each item in your head as you shop. If you estimate, you won't buy more than you can afford.

You can estimate even before you go shopping. You can round the cost of each item you need for a project to the nearest dollar. Add them up to figure out about how much the project will cost all together.

Businesses also use estimates. A business that provides a service often tells you about how much you can expect to pay. This is an estimate of the cost. The mechanic tells you about how much your car repairs will be. You can decide if you want to spend the money or not.

Estimation can also help you decide if your answer is **reasonable**. You can check your answer by rounding. Get an approximate answer to the math problem. Your estimate should be fairly close to your exact answer. An estimate that is very different helps you recognize a mistake. If there is a difference of hundreds or thousands, you may have an error in place value. This is especially true when you have long columns of numbers to add together. It can also happen easily when you have very large numbers with regrouping. If you make it a habit to check your answers using estimation, you will avoid mistakes.

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What is one situation where you might want to use estimation? _____

2) Based on the reading passage, what do you think the word reasonable means in the fifth paragraph? _____

3) What should you do if your estimate is a lot different from your exact answer? _____

4) Why should you always check your answers using a second method of problem-solving, such as estimation? _____

5) When have you used estimation? Explain. _____

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Name: **Key**

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

Actual wording of answers may vary.

- 1) What is one situation where you might want to use estimation? **either shopping, before shopping or checking an answer**
- 2) Based on the reading passage, what do you think the word reasonable means in the fifth paragraph? **close to correct**
- 3) What should you do if your estimate is a lot different from your exact answer? **rework the problem**
- 4) Why should you always check your answers using a second method of problem-solving, such as estimation? **to avoid mistakes**
- 5) When have you used estimation? Explain. **student's choice**