MATH

Estimating sums and differences



Name _____ Date _____

I can round numbers to estimate a sum or a difference.

1 How it works

Round each number first, then add or subtract the rounded numbers. 48 + 31 is about 50 + 30 = 80. An estimate is a quick, close answer. Use it to check: if an exact answer is far from the estimate, look again.

48 + 31
↓ ↓
50 + 30 = 80

48 + 31 is about 80.

2 Round each number to the nearest 10, then add

1. 68 + 51 is about ☐ + ☐ = ☐
2. 23 + 72 is about ☐ + ☐ = ☐
3. 38 + 79 is about ☐ + ☐ = ☐
4. 81 + 41 is about ☐ + ☐ = ☐
5. 83 + 69 is about ☐ + ☐ = ☐
6. 15 + 67 is about ☐ + ☐ = ☐

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Estimate differences

Name _____ Date _____

I can round to the nearest 100 to estimate.

1 Round each number to the nearest 100, then subtract

1. **786 – 374** is about ☐ – ☐ = ☐
2. **793 – 385** is about ☐ – ☐ = ☐
3. **932 – 624** is about ☐ – ☐ = ☐
4. **567 – 201** is about ☐ – ☐ = ☐
5. **733 – 207** is about ☐ – ☐ = ☐
6. **665 – 501** is about ☐ – ☐ = ☐

2 Estimate first, then find the exact sum

Is the exact answer close?

Add	Estimate	Exact
329 + 128		
441 + 306		
372 + 365		

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Is it reasonable?

Name _____ Date _____

I can use an estimate to check an answer.

1 Estimate, then circle yes or no

Round to the nearest 100.

1. Leo added 539 + 324 and got 1159.
   Estimate: _____ Reasonable? yes no
2. Hana added 571 + 251 and got 822.
   Estimate: _____ Reasonable? yes no
3. Adam added 229 + 263 and got 492.
   Estimate: _____ Reasonable? yes no
4. Noor added 488 + 244 and got 427.
   Estimate: _____ Reasonable? yes no

2 Think about it

1. Estimate 16 + 87 to the nearest 10. Is the exact sum more or less? _____
2. Estimate 11 + 64 to the nearest 10. Is the exact sum more or less? _____
3. Which is the best estimate for 189 + 313: 400, 500 or 600? _____

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Word problems



Name _____ Date _____

I can estimate to solve and check word problems.

1 Read, round, answer

 Show your thinking in the box.

1 Leo read 48 pages on Monday and 31 pages on Tuesday. About how many pages is that? Round each number to the nearest 10.

Answer: _____



2 A bus has 412 riders in the morning and 289 in the evening. About how many more ride in the morning? Round to the nearest 100.

Answer: _____



3 Hana picks 193 apples and Ben picks 207. Hana says they picked about 600. Is that reasonable?

Answer: _____



4 A bakery sold 362 cookies on Friday and 529 on Saturday. About how many cookies is that?

Answer: _____



How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: estimating sums and differences

1 Page 1

Estimate the sums: 1) 70 + 50 = 120; 2) 20 + 70 = 90; 3) 40 + 80 = 120; 4) 80 + 40 = 120; 5) 80 + 70 = 150; 6) 20 + 70 = 90.

2 Page 2

Estimate the differences: 1) 800 − 400 = 400; 2) 800 − 400 = 400; 3) 900 − 600 = 300; 4) 600 − 200 = 400; 5) 700 − 200 = 500; 6) 700 − 500 = 200.

Estimate first: 1) 300 + 100 = 400, exact 457; 2) 400 + 300 = 700, exact 747; 3) 400 + 400 = 800, exact 737.

3 Page 3

Is it reasonable? 1) no (about 800; exact 863); 2) yes (about 900; exact 822); 3) yes (about 500; exact 492); 4) no (about 700; exact 732).

Think: 1) 20 + 90 = 110; the exact sum, 103, is less; 2) 10 + 60 = 70; the exact sum, 75, is more; 3) 500.

4 Page 4: word problems

1) About 80 pages (50 + 30)

2) About 100 more (400 − 300)

3) No. 200 + 200 = 400, so about 400. (The exact answer is 400.)

4) About 900 cookies (400 + 500)

5 Teaching tip 💡

Estimate before every exact calculation for a week. Children quickly learn to spot answers that cannot be right, like 48 + 31 = 179.

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