

Name: _____

Finding Pi - Activity



Objective:

You may already know that pi (π) is a number that is approximately equal to 3.14. But do you know where the number comes from? Let's measure some round objects and find out.

Materials:

- 6 circular objects
Some examples include a bicycle wheel, kiddie pool, trash can lid, DVD, steering wheel, or clock face. Be sure each object you choose is shaped like a perfect circle.
- metric tape measure
Be sure your tape measure has centimeters on it.



Preview

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- Step 2:** With the centimeter side of your tape measure, accurately measure the distance around the outside of the circle (the circumference). Record your measurement on the table.
- Step 3:** Next, measure the distance across the middle of the object (the diameter). Record your measurement on the table.
- Step 4:** Use your calculator to divide the circumference by the diameter. Write the answer on the table. If you measured carefully, the answer should be about 3.14, or π !

Repeat steps 1 through 4 for each object.

Name: _____

"Finding Pi" Table



Measure circular objects and complete the table below.
If your measurements are accurate, you should be able to
calculate the number pi (3.14).

| | name of circular object | circumference measurement (cm) | diameter measurement (cm) | circumference ÷ diameter | Is your answer approximately equal to π ? |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1. | | | | | |



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| | | | | | |
|----|--|--|--|--|--|
| 4. | | | | | |
| 5. | | | | | |
| 6. | | | | | |

In your own words, explain how to calculate the number pi (π).
