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.

- calculator
    It will save you some time because dividing with decimals can be tricky.

- "Finding Pi - Table" worksheet
    It may be attached to this page, or on the back.

What to do:

Step 1: Choose one of your circular objects. Write the name of the object on the "Finding Pi" table.

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 <u>about</u> 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.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

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

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