

UNIT 16 *Cumulative Frequency*

Activities

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- 16.1 Newspaper Words
- 16.2 CD Tracks

ACTIVITY 16.1

Newspaper Words

This activity explores whether broadsheet newspapers like *The Times* and the *Guardian* use longer words than tabloid papers such as *The Mirror* and the *Mail*.

1. Obtain copies of the two different types of paper. Choose a page at random and count the number of letters in each word, compiling your results in a table like the one below.

| <i>Newspaper</i> | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| <i>Number of Letters</i> | <i>Tally</i> | <i>Frequency</i> |
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |

2. Use the data in the table to calculate the mean number of letters.
3. Comment on your results.

Extension

Design a reading age formula for the readability of a text. Use it with other newspapers or books.

ACTIVITY 16.2

CD Tracks

This activity explores whether the tracks on pop CDs are longer than those on pop recordings in the past.

1. Collect data on the lengths (in minutes) of tracks on CDs, cassette tapes (or records!) for music from different decades (e.g. 70's, 80's, 90's).

Record your data in tables like this one:

| <i>Decade:</i> | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| <i>Length of Track (l min)</i> | <i>Tally</i> | <i>Frequency</i> |
| 0 $< l \leq 1$ | | |
| 1 $< l \leq 2$ | | |
| 2 $> l \leq 2.5$ | | |
| 2.5 $< l \leq 3$ | | |
| 3 $< l \leq 3.5$ | | |

2. For each decade, draw a box and whisker plot.
3. Comment on and compare your results. What conclusions can you make?

Extension

Collect two sets of data for another scenario, and illustrate it with box and whisker plots, making any relevant conclusions.