

Box Plots

7th Grade

Five numbers that summarise any data set, and what the box actually shows.

A box plot shows the five-number summary. The box holds the middle half of the data.

1 SORT THE DATA

1

Smallest to largest. Nothing works until this is done.

2 FIND THE MEDIAN

2

The middle value. This is the line inside the box.

3 FIND Q1 AND Q3

3

The medians of the lower and upper halves. These are the box edges.

4 MARK MIN AND MAX

4

The whiskers stretch out to these.

READING IT

The box holds the middle 50% of the data.

$IQR = Q3 - Q1$. A long box means a wide spread.

Each whisker holds 25% of the data.

A box plot hides how many data points there are. Two very different sets can share one.