

Literacy and Numeracy Week activity. Term 3, 2008.

Grade: 5/6

Teacher: Hilary Fairlie

Text: Where's Stripey? By Wendy Binks.

Synopsis: Sheila Emu lays 30 eggs and her mate Crikey must look after them. He runs into trouble keeping track of all 30 chicks.

Concepts taught: Data (mode, median, range)

- After reading the story, ask the students to estimate how much a new born emu chick might weigh (50-200 grams) Ask them how much the lightest of the 30 might weigh, and how much the heaviest would be. Explain that this is the range of the data.
- List on the board each student's estimate at how much "their' chick would weigh (must be within the range). Make up a couple of extra guesses to make up the total of 30. It doesn't matter if there are several guesses the same (in fact, encourage this so that there is a mode)
- Create another column and, with the students' help, put each guess in order from lightest to heaviest. Ask them to identify the most frequently occurring value, explaining that this is the mode. Add one more value onto the end, so that there is an uneven number.
- Ask a student to locate the middle value. This is the median. Ask what may happen if you had just looked at the 30 chicks. What is the middle value? Explain that in the case of an even number of values, the median is found when the sum of the two middle values is divided by two.