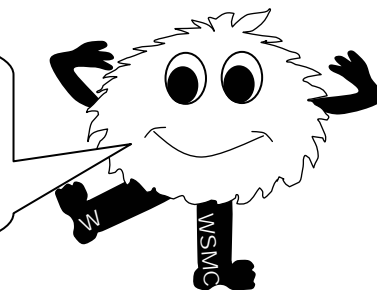


Dazzling Data

Got an idea for **Dazzling Data**?

Jot it down and send to Donna Buck, PO Box 170, Joyce, WA 98343 (electronic information can be sent to buckdj@olympen.com).



College Costs are on the Rise

http://www.usatoday.com/EDUCATE/mathtoday/reg_activities/

Prerequisite Skills

Students need to

- find the arithmetic average of two numbers;
- place data values in correct measurement classes;
- make a histogram using measurement classes;
- describe data displayed in various types of graphs.

Activities:

- place data values in measurement classes to make a map graph and a histogram;
- make a map graph of college cost data;
- make a histogram of college cost data;
- describe data represented in a map graph and a histogram.

If you need a copy of a map, try the Internet. You can get a copy of a suitable map at www.50states.com.

Extensions:

- make parallel box-and-whisker plots;
- make scatter plots and analyze relationships between data sets.
- Teaching Suggestions

This activity is very suitable for Algebra 1 and General Mathematics students, and possibly middle school students. Students can display their results on posters or in brochures or booklets. There are many interesting factors with which to compare college costs, including per capita income, per capita total taxes, population of the state, area of the state, and so on. Students can use almanacs or the Internet to find data for the graphs. Several good sites are www.census.gov and www.infoplease.com.

State	2002-3 In-State Cost		State	2002-3 In-State Cost
Alabama (AL)	8,480		Montana (MT)	9,028
Alaska (AK)	8,350		Nebraska (NE)	8,990
Arizona (AZ)	8,611.50		Nevada (NV)	8,518
Arkansas (AR)	13,497		New Hampshire (NH)	14,012
California (CA)	13,361.50		New Jersey (NJ)	14,436
Colorado (CO)	9,838		New Mexico (NM)	10,679
Connecticut (CT)	12,588		New York (NY)	11,275.50
Delaware (DE)	11,462		North Carolina (NC)	10,356
Florida (FL)	8,266.50		North Dakota (ND)	7,796
Georgia (GA)	8,636		Ohio (OH)	12,511.50
Hawaii (HI)	7,356		Oklahoma (OK)	7,890
Idaho (ID)	7,986		Oregon (OR)	10,646
Illinois (IL)	11,603.5		Pennsylvania (PA)	14,042
Indiana (IN)	11,240.5		Rhode Island (RI)	13,125
Iowa (IA)	9,236		South Carolina (SC)	9,708
Kansas (KS)	8,035		South Dakota (SD)	7,451
Kentucky (KY)	8,569		Tennessee (TN)	8,756
Louisiana (LA)	8,504		Texas (TX)	10,355.50
Maine (ME)	11,268		Utah (UT)	7,078
Maryland (MD)	13,051		Vermont (VT)	15,352
Massachusetts (MA)	11,955		Virginia (VA)	9,008.50
Michigan (MI)	12,422		Washington (WA)	10,711
Minnesota (MN)	11,976		West Virginia (WV)	8,812
Mississippi (MS)	10,546		Wisconsin (WI)	10,410
Missouri (MO)	10,634		Wyoming (WY)	7,737