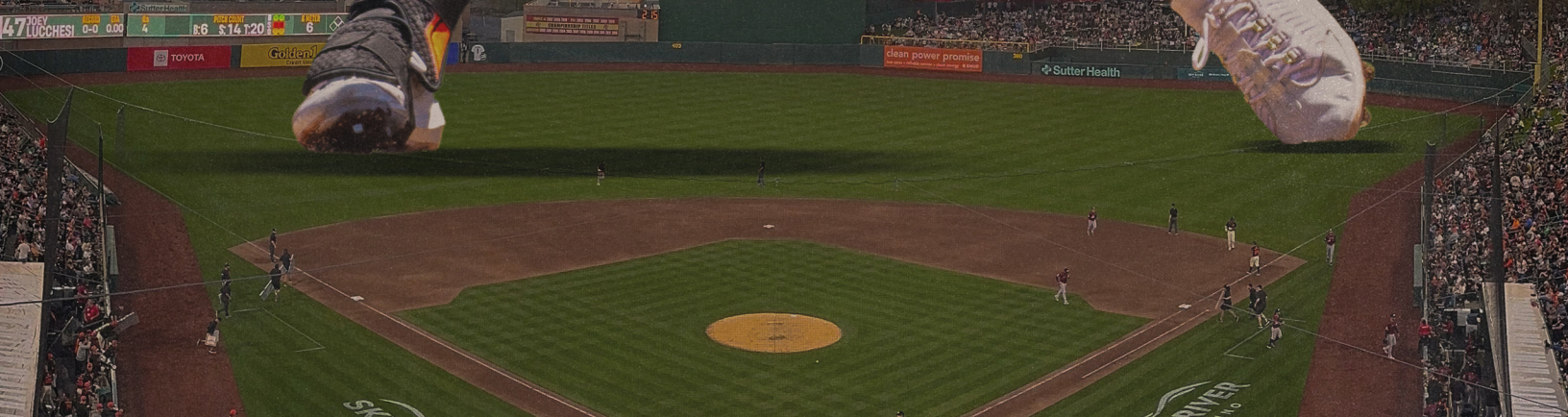




SACRAMENTO RIVER CATS ACTIVITY PACKET

GRADES 6 - 8



ANALYZING BASEBALL DATA: THE RIVER CATS' WINNING STREAK

GRADE LEVEL: 6TH-8TH GRADE

The Sacramento River Cats played 10 games in June. The chart below shows the number of runs scored by the team in each game.

Game	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Runs Scored	3	2	5	7	6	4	9	8	3	10

After the tenth game, a reporter wrote the following statement in a local newspaper:
"The River Cats are becoming one of the best hitting teams in Minor League Baseball. Based on their recent performance, it's clear that they will easily win the championship this season."

1. Based on the data in the chart, what was the average number of runs scored per game?

2. Create a bar graph that shows the number of runs scored in each of the 10 games.
(Label your axes: Game Number on the x-axis and Runs Scored on the y-axis.)

3. Which part of the reporter's statement is a fact supported by the data?

Which part is a speculation or opinion that is not proven by the data?

A DAY AT SUTTER HEALTH PARK

GRADE LEVEL: 6TH GRADE

Imagine you are a young baseball fan who gets the chance to throw the first pitch at a Sacramento River Cats game. The crowd is cheering, the mascot Dinger waves to you, and the players are warming up on the field.

Directions:

Write a narrative story about this special day. Your story should:

1. Engage the reader by introducing yourself (the narrator) and describing where and when your story takes place.
2. Include descriptive details that help readers picture the sounds, sights, and feelings at the ballpark.
3. Explain the sequence of events – what happens before, during, and after you throw the first pitch.
4. Conclude your story with a reflection or ending that shows what you learned or how you felt about the experience.

Example Sentence Starters:

"The moment I stepped onto the field, my heart began to race..."

"Dinger gave me a high five, and I knew this was a moment I'd never forget."

"When the crowd cheered after my throw, I finally understood what it felt like to be part of the team."



PROPORTIONAL REASONING IN BASEBALL

GRADE LEVEL: 7TH GRADE

1. Team Store Discount (Percent Decrease)

A River Cats baseball hat originally costs \$28. During a promotion, the team store offers a 25% discount.

A. How much money is taken off the price?

Work:

B. What is the final sale price?

Sale Price = \$

2. Ticket Markup (Percent Increase)

A group ticket normally costs \$12, but for a special event the price increases by 15%.

A. How much does the price increase by?

Work:

B. What is the new ticket price?

New Price = \$

3. Autograph Fundraiser (Tax)

A student buys a River Cats poster for \$10, and the sales tax rate is 9%.

A. How much tax is paid on the poster?

Tax = \$

B. What is the total cost including tax?

Total Cost = \$

4. Coach's Commission (Percent Commission)

A coach earns 10% commission on River Cats merchandise he sells for a school fundraiser. If he sells \$540 worth of merchandise, how much does he earn?

Commission Amount = \$

5. Season Ticket Savings (Percent Savings)

A season ticket normally costs \$800, but if purchased early, fans save 20%.

A. How much money is saved?

Savings = \$

B. What is the discounted season ticket price?

Discounted Price = \$

“THE ROAD TO THE BIG LEAGUES”

GRADE LEVEL: 8TH GRADE

For many young baseball players, the dream of reaching the Major Leagues begins in the Minor Leagues. The Sacramento River Cats, the Triple-A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants, play a crucial role in helping players develop their skills and prepare for the challenges of professional baseball. Players who join the River Cats often describe the experience as both rewarding and demanding.

Take Logan Webb, for example. Before becoming a star pitcher for the San Francisco Giants, Webb spent time refining his craft with the River Cats. During that time, he learned how to stay calm under pressure, improve his accuracy, and work as part of a team. These lessons became the foundation for his later success in the Major Leagues.

The River Cats' coaches focus not only on athletic ability but also on mental toughness and teamwork. Their philosophy can be compared to a teacher guiding students—each practice and game is a lesson in perseverance. The River Cats' supportive environment helps players grow, both as athletes and as individuals, while fostering a deep sense of community and pride in Sacramento.

1. What is the central idea of the passage? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

2. How does the author connect the experiences of individual players, such as Logan Webb, to the larger idea of player development in the River Cats organization?

3. What is the impact of the author's comparison between the River Cats' coaches and teachers? How does this analogy help the reader understand the team's philosophy?

4. Write a brief objective summary of the passage in 3–4 sentences.

LOGAN WEBB: A RISING STAR FROM ROCKLIN

GRADE LEVEL: 7TH GRADE

Logan Webb is a professional baseball pitcher who grew up in Rocklin, California. He was drafted by the San Francisco Giants in 2014 and worked his way through the Minor Leagues, including time with the Sacramento River Cats at the Triple-A level. Webb became known for his strong work ethic and steady improvement over time. He is especially praised for his signature sinker, a pitch that causes hitters to hit many ground balls, and for his ability to stay calm during high-pressure moments. Webb's national recognition increased during the 2021 postseason, when he played a major role in helping the Giants reach the playoffs. His performance in these games was viewed as outstanding, earning him praise from coaches, teammates, and fans. Many young pitchers admire how Webb studies hitters, trains year-round, and treats baseball as both a skill and a responsibility. However, not everyone agrees that professional athletes should be considered role models. Some critics argue that athletes face public pressure and personal challenges that are not always visible to fans. Others believe that children should look up to family members, teachers, or community leaders instead of athletes, who might struggle or make mistakes like anyone else. This raises the question of whether athletic success alone is enough to label someone a role model.

Directions:

Write a paragraph arguing whether Logan Webb should or should not be considered a role model for young athletes.

Your paragraph must include:

- A **clear claim**
- An **opposing viewpoint**
- At least **two pieces of evidence** from the passage
- Logical organization of ideas



VOCABULARY & FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

GRADE LEVEL: 8TH GRADE

During the championship baseball game, the stadium was buzzing with excitement. The River Cats' pitcher, Leo Ramirez, had a reputation for being unshakeable under pressure. In the final inning, with the crowd roaring, Leo threw a curveball that completely fooled the batter. The announcer shouted, "Ramirez is really on fire tonight!" The batter struck out, and the stadium erupted into cheers.

1. Based on context, what does the word "buzzing" most likely mean?

- a. Filled with insects
- b. Very excited and full of energy
- c. Making a loud electrical noise
- d. Quiet and calming

2. Before confirming with a dictionary, what do you infer the word "unshakeable" means in this passage?

3. Check the dictionary definition of "unshakeable." Does your inferred meaning match? Explain in one sentence.

4. The word "curveball" is used literally in baseball. Write another sentence using "curveball" figuratively (as a metaphor for something surprising).

5. The phrase "on fire" in this passage is:

- a. Literal
- b. Figurative

Explain what it means in this context.

6. Identify the tone of the paragraph:

- a. Boring
- b. Nervous
- c. Exciting and intense
- d. Calm

ANSWER KEY

ANALYZING BASEBALL DATA: THE RIVER CATS' WINNING STREAK

1. Add all the runs together: $3 + 2 + 5 + 7 + 6 + 4 + 9 + 8 + 3 + 10 = 57$

Now divide by the number of games (10): $57 \div 10 = 5.7$

Answer: The River Cats scored an average of **5.7** runs per game.

2. **Answer:** The correct bar graph should: Have the x-axis labeled "Game Number (1–10)" and Have the y-axis labeled "Runs Scored"

Each bar should match the table data: Game 1 = 3, Game 2 = 2, Game 3 = 5, Game 4 = 7, Game 5 = 6, Game 6 = 4, Game 7 = 9, Game 8 = 8, Game 9 = 3, Game 10 = 10

Correct graph features: even spacing, accurate heights, labeled axes, clear title.

3. **Fact:** They performed well in recent games.

Speculation: They will win the championship.

PROPORTIONAL REASONING IN BASEBALL

1. Team Store Discount (25% off \$28)

A. Amount taken off: 25% of 28 = $0.25 \times 28 = \$7$

B. Final sale price: $28 - 7 = \$21$

2. Ticket Markup (15% increase on \$12)

A. Amount of increase: 15% of 12 = $0.15 \times 12 = \$1.80$

B. New ticket price: $12 + 1.80 = \$13.80$

3. Autograph Fundraiser (9% tax on \$10)

A. Tax amount: 9% of 10 = $0.09 \times 10 = \$0.90$

B. Total cost: $10 + 0.90 = \$10.90$

4. Coach's Commission (10% of \$540) : 10% of 540 = $0.10 \times 540 = \$54$

5. Season Ticket Savings (20% off \$800)

A. Savings: 20% of 800 = $0.20 \times 800 = \$160$

B. Discounted price: $800 - 160 = \$640$

THE ROAD TO THE BIG LEAGUES

- 1.** The central idea of the passage is that the Sacramento River Cats play an important role in helping players develop the skills, discipline, and teamwork they need to succeed in the Major Leagues.
- 2.** The author uses Logan Webb's personal story as an example of how the River Cats prepare players for the Major Leagues. Webb's experiences—learning to stay calm under pressure and work as part of a team—illustrate the overall development process that all River Cats players go through before advancing in their careers. His success serves as evidence of the team's strong training and supportive environment.
- 3.** The analogy between coaches and teachers helps readers understand that the River Cats' focus extends beyond athletic skill. It shows that their philosophy centers on growth, learning, and personal development—similar to how teachers help students learn and improve. This comparison creates a tone of mentorship and emphasizes that the coaches' role is educational and supportive, not just athletic.
- 4. Sample Summary:** The Sacramento River Cats help players prepare for the Major Leagues by developing both their athletic and mental skills. The story of Logan Webb demonstrates how time with the River Cats can lead to success in professional baseball. The team's coaches are compared to teachers, showing their focus on guidance and personal growth. Overall, the passage highlights the River Cats' importance in shaping talented and well-rounded players.

VOCABULARY & FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

1. **B.** Very excited and full of energy

2. **Possible inferred meaning:** Calm, steady, and not easily upset or rattled.

3. **Dictionary check:** Unshakeable: Unable to be disturbed or upset; firm in purpose or position. **Yes**, it matches because both meanings describe someone who stays steady under pressure.

4. **Example figurative sentence:** "The teacher threw us a curveball with a surprise quiz today." (Any similar sensible answer is correct.)

5. **B.** Figurative It means Leo was performing extremely well, not actually on fire.

6. **C.** Exciting and intense