



Pattern Hunter: School Lunch Mystery

Activity Sheet - Finding Patterns in Data

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part 1: Count the Messy Data

Instructions: Use tally marks to count each lunch choice. Then write the total number in the box.

Use this space for your tally marks as you count!

Day	Hot Meal Choice	Hot Meal Count	Brought Lunch Count	Yogurt Count
Monday	Pizza	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Tuesday	Tacos	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Wednesday	Meatloaf	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Thursday	Chicken Nuggets	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Friday	Fish Sticks	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

 **Counting Tip:**

Make tally marks in groups of 5 (|||| with a line through for 5) to make counting easier!

Part 2: Organize Your Data

Now create a clean, organized table with your totals:

Day	Total Students	Most Popular Choice	Least Popular Choice
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

Part 3: Find the Patterns!

Now that your data is organized, answer these questions:

1. Which hot meal was the MOST popular overall? How many students chose it?

2. Which hot meal was the LEAST popular overall? How many students chose it?

3. On which day did the MOST students bring lunch from home? Why do you think this happened?

4. Look at yogurt choices. Do you notice any pattern about when students choose yogurt?

5. Calculate: What percentage of students chose the hot meal on Pizza Day? (Hot meal \div Total \times 100)

Part 4: Make Your Recommendation

Letter to Ms. Martinez

Based on the patterns you found, write 3 recommendations for next year's lunch menu:

Dear Ms. Martinez,

After analyzing the lunch data, here are my recommendations:

1. Keep serving:

Because:

2. Consider removing or changing:

Because:

3. My suggestion for a new menu item:

Because:

Sincerely,

Reflection

How did organizing the messy data help you see patterns that weren't obvious before?

Great job, Pattern Hunter! 🎉

You've discovered how organizing information reveals hidden patterns!

Deep Dive 5 - Pattern Hunter Unit - Lesson 1