



Backpack-tivity:

An @Home Learning Activity

How Long is the Line?

Introduction:

As you complete this activity, you will learn about estimation.

Materials:

You'll need an errand to run and the time to run it.

Directions:

Take a trip together to a bank, store, movie theater, car wash, fast food restaurant, or other business where you usually wait in line. Look at the number of people who are in line when you get there. Guess how long you'll have to stand in line before your turn comes. Write your guess here:

Now, use a stopwatch or a watch with a second hand to time how long it takes one person to complete his or her business in line. Count the number of people in line. How long do you *estimate* you'll have to stand in line before your turn comes? Write your estimate here:

Wait in line for your turn. How long did it take? Write the time you spent in line here:

Talk About It:

Which time was closer to the actual time you spent in line – your guess or your estimate? Why? What information did you use to estimate the time you would spend in line? What information did you use to guess? What's the difference between a guess and an estimate?

Learn More:

Estimate the height of trees on a Christmas tree farm and graph your results with an easy to use template at <http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/kadkins/estimate.htm>.

This activity was completed by _____ and _____.