Date:

Class:

The Empirical Rule: Word problems

Definition: A probability distribution modeled by a bell-shaped curve (also called a normal curve) that is symmetric about the mean.



99.7% of the data lies within 3 standard deviations of the mean

Example: At State University, 2000 freshmen took a math test. The scores were distributed normally with a mean of 70 and a standard deviation of 5. Label the mean and three standard deviations from the mean.

- (a) What percentage of scores are between scores 65 and 75?
- (b) What percentage of scores are between scores 60 and 70?
- (c) What percentage of scores are between scores 60 and 85?
- (d) What percentage of scores is less than a score of 55?



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- (e) What percentage of scores is greater than a score of 80?
- (f) Approximately how many biology students scored between 60 and 70?

You try...

- 1. At Central High School, 500 juniors took the ACT last year. The scores were distributed normally with a mean of 24 and a standard deviation of 4. Label the mean and three standard deviations from the mean.
 - (a) What percentage of scores are between scores 20 and 28?
 - (b) What percentage of scores are between scores 16 and 32?
 - (c) What percentage of scores are between scores 16 and 28?
 - (d) What percentage of scores is less than a score of 12?



(e) What percentage of scores is greater than a score of 24?

- (f) Approximately how many juniors scored between 24 and 28?
- 2. The math scores for an exam for the state of Georgia are normally distributed with a mean of 496 and a standard deviation of 109.
 - (a) About what percent of the test-takers received scores between 387 and 605?
 - (b) What percent of test-takers received scores between 496 and 714?
- 3. The data set below gives the distances, in miles, that the employees in a small office travel to work each day. Determine the range, in miles, in which 68% of the employees travel to work each day.

Hint: Complete the bell curve to help answer this question.

12, 15, 11, 8, 11, 13, 10, 16

- 4. A data set is bell-shaped with a mean of 319. If 95% of the data lies between 205 and 433, what is the standard deviation?
- 5. A data set is normally distributed with a mean of 127 and a standard deviation of 81. What percentage of data should lie between 127 and 370?
- 6. The mean life of a tire is 30,000 km. The standard deviation is 2000 km.
 - (a) 68% of all tires will have a life between _____ km and _____ km.
 - (b) 95% of all tires will have a life between ____km and _____km.
 - (c) What percent of the tires will have a life that exceeds 26,000 km?



(d) If a company purchased 2000 tires, how many tires would you expect to last more than 28 000 km?



169 278 387 496 605 714 823

