

Communicate About Numbers in the Media

Goal Evaluate the use of numbers in the media.

Gen is doing a science project on Canada geese. She found this information on a Web page.

The Canada goose is well known for its V-shaped migratory flight pattern and characteristic honk.

There are 11 geographical species, some with populations well over a million, and some with barely over one thousand.

In 1991 there were 63 581 Canada geese in the United Kingdom.

The largest goose is the giant, with a wingspan of more than 2 m and a mass under 10 kg. The smallest is the so-called “cackling” goose, which has a mass of only 1–2 kg.

Between 1983 and 2000, the size of the urban wintering flock in Wichita grew from 1623 birds to over 15 000!

At-Home Help

Numbers are reported in the media to give information. This information is not always correct.

- When reporting a large number, use a rounded number instead of an exact number.
- When rounding, round to the most appropriate place value.
- Use ranges so that a reader can tell the difference between least and greatest values.

Communication Checklist

- ☒ Did you explain your thinking?
- ☒ Did you use math language?
- ☒ Did you include the right amount of detail?

1. What numbers on the Web page do you find confusing?

2. Are all the numbers described in the same way?

3. Do you agree with how the numbers 1623 and 15 000 are represented?

4. Where would you like to see a range given?
