

LESSON

• Lesson on Circumference

Provide several large circular objects (garbage can lid; RR crossing sign; hula hoop; serving tray; etc.); rolls of string; and scissors. Have students work in pairs.

For each object, that your teacher provides:

- a. Wrap a piece of string around the outside rim, and cut it to fit. (For circular things, we usually call this length the circumference instead of the perimeter—but the two words actually mean the same thing.)
- b. Extend the string across the object through the center (as best you can judge where the center is). Mark the length of one extension. Remember that this is the diameter of the circle.
- c. Repeat this process until there isn't enough string remaining to go across another time.
- d. Notice that just a “little piece” of string is left over for each object.

This is what we learned from the activity:

The distance around a circular object is a little bit more than 3 times the distance across the object.

or, in other words,

The circumference of a circle is a little more than 3 times its diameter.