

## Phillies Dream Team

**Winning Teacher:** Kelly Albany

**School:** Riverside Elementary - Princeton, NJ

- Use [www.phillies.com](http://www.phillies.com) to research current and past Philadelphia Phillies players.
- Use subtraction, multiplication and division to determine a players average or ERA
- Create a dream team based on player's statistics
- Determine the Dream Team's players' salary by adding and subtracting determined amounts from \$100,000,000 team budget
- Use Philadelphia Inquirer and/or Daily News to read and research other Philadelphia teams and players

Duration: 45-60 minutes

Subjects: Mathematics, Technology

Grade Level: 4-6

NJ Standards:

### 4.1.4 A. Number Sense

1. Use real-life experiences, physical materials, and technology to construct meanings for numbers

### 4.1.4 B Numerical Operations

7. Select pencil-and-paper, mental math, or a calculator as the appropriate computational method in a given situation depending on the context and numbers.

### 4.3.5 C. Modeling

1. Use number sentences to model situations.

Materials: Writing tools, math journal, calculator, computer access, [www.phillies.com](http://www.phillies.com), Philadelphia Inquirer and/or Daily News

Procedures/Activities

\* Discuss with children various sports they play (baseball, football, soccer, etc). Include what makes good players, how points are scored and tallied for each goal, homerun, etc. Then determine ways to keep records of players' points, errors, etc. (score boards, spreadsheets, journals)

\*Present them with a Philadelphia Phillies player and their statistics. For example, Pat Burrell has 1049 hits and 4046 at bats. To find his average, divide his hits by his bats.  
 $1049 \div 4046 = .259$  AVG = .259

\*Next demonstrate how to find a pitcher's ERA. To find Cole Hamels' ERA, take his Earned Runs (131) and multiply that by 9 (innings in a game) to equal (1179). Then divide that number by innings pitched (337.2) to equal 3.49.

$131 \times 9 = 1179$   $1179 \div 337.2 = 3.49$  ERA = 3.49

## Activity

\* In groups of two the students log on to [www.phillies.com](http://www.phillies.com) and navigate through the roster page. Their mission is to calculate the average or ERA of at least two current players in each position of pitcher, catcher, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base, shortstop and outfield. Students are to record them in their math journal.

\* Gather the students and discuss the players they chose and how they calculated their average. Compare the results of various players and the rational of their decisions. Then, inform the students that they are going to develop a “Phillies Dream Team” to include past and present players.

\* Students will again use [www.phillies.com](http://www.phillies.com). Model navigating the site by clicking News, Team History, All Time Rosters, and then Players. The students will choose one player from each position to play on their dream team. They will again calculate their average or ERA to determine the effectiveness and role on their team.

## Conclusion

\* Students will present their team players and positions along with the averages or ERA of each player. They will also justify their players by voicing their strategies and reasoning for their choices.

## \*Extension

Discuss with students what makes a player valuable. Is it skill in the field, ability to hit, speed, or skill of pitching? Also, are some players more valuable than others and can that effect their salary?

Explain to students that sports teams have an organization budget, which is a total amount of money they are able to spend on team players. Tell the students, as owners of their Dream Phillies Team, that they are to create a salary for each player using an organized budget of \$100,000,000. For Example, if you chose to give a player \$13,000,000 you now have to subtract that from the original amount (100,000,000-13,000,000) and are left with \$87,000,000 to allocate to the remaining players.

As the team salaries are created, students are to keep in mind the value of each player. The children will create a salary scale and present it in correlation to their roster.

\* Students can also apply these strategies by going to The Philadelphia Inquirer and /or the Daily News. The children can read various articles on the Philadelphia sports teams. From there they can determine who the most valuable players are, calculate their statistics, create an organized budget and establish mock wages and earnings.