

Pi Day 2026 Measuring Pi

Goal: Discover that the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter is always about 3.14, a number called pi (π) (also written as $\frac{22}{7}$ or $3\frac{1}{7}$).

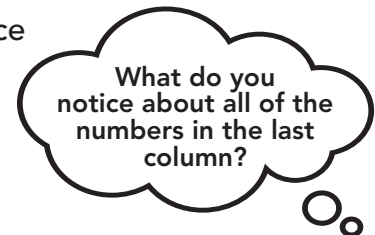
Step 1: Review the five "round" objects on the next page and list their names in the "Object" column of the table below.

Step 2: Wrap a string around the object to measure the distance AROUND the circle (circumference). Cut the string and measure it. Record your answer in the "Circumference (Distance Around)" column.

Step 3: Use a new piece of string to measure the distance ACROSS the circle through the center (diameter). Cut the string. Measure its length and record it in the "Diameter (Distance Across)" column.

Step 4: Lay the diameter string along the circumference string to see how many times it fits. You should be able to fit about 3 full diameters, with a small piece left over.

Step 5: Find the ratio of the two measurements (circumference divided by the diameter), and record the result in the table. Use a calculator for this part.



Step 6: Continue Steps 2-5 for each object.

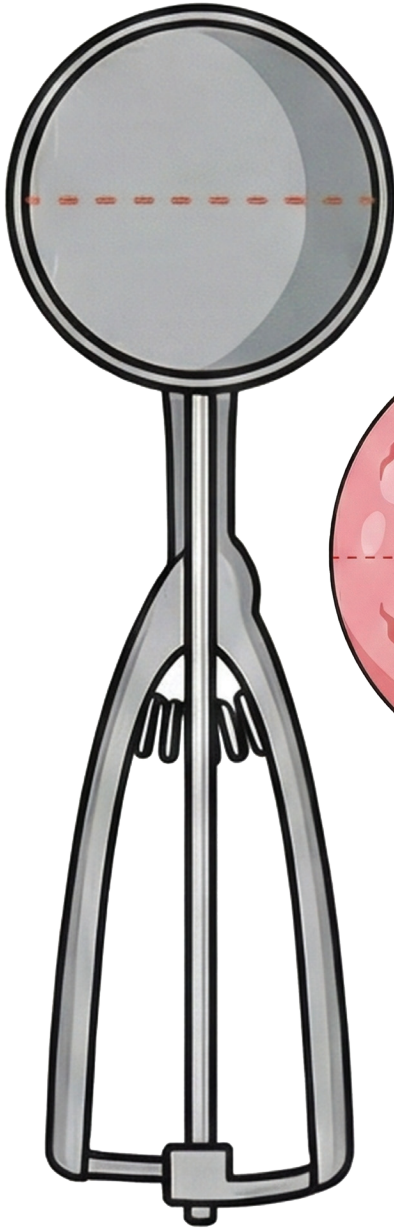
Object	Circumference (C) Distance AROUND the circle	Diameter (d) Distance ACROSS the circle	$C \div d$

Extension: Using the ratio $\frac{\text{Circumference}}{\text{diameter}} \approx \frac{22}{7}$ and a radius of 6,371 km, find the approximate circumference of the Earth.

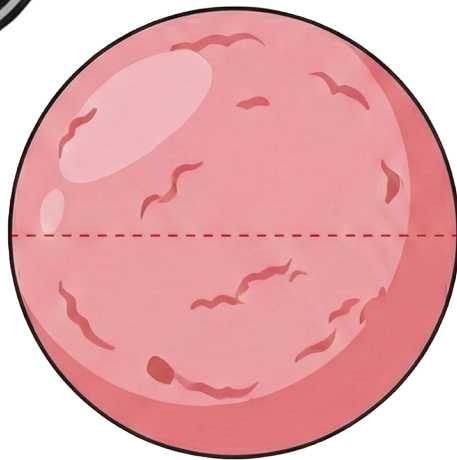


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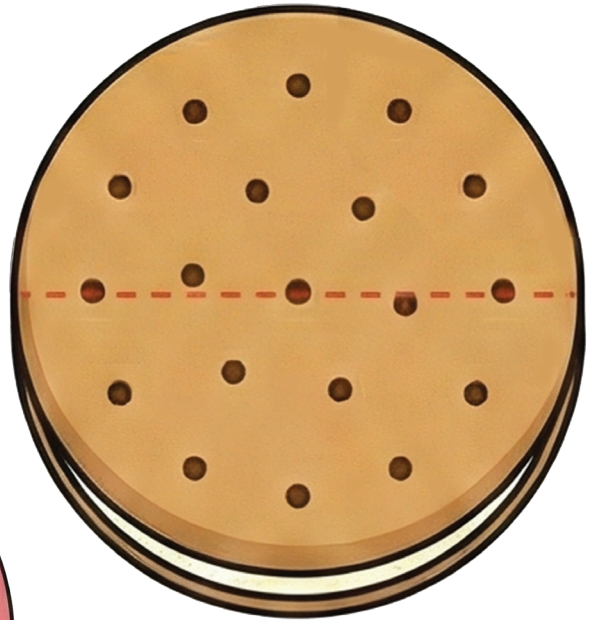
Round Objects to Measure



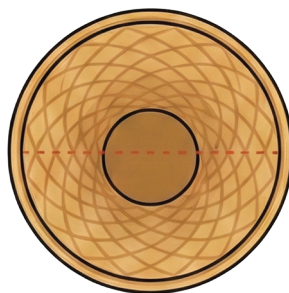
Ice Cream Scoop



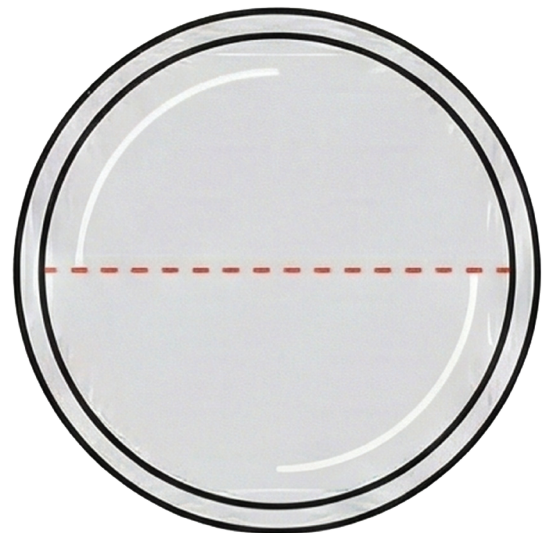
Single Ice Cream Scoop



Round Ice Cream Sandwich



Top of Ice Cream Cone



Ice Cream Tub Lid