

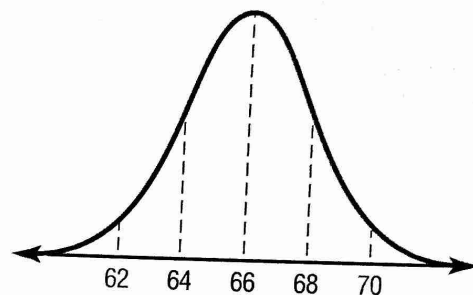
The heights of 1800 teenagers are normally distributed with a mean of 66 inches and a standard deviation of 2 inches.

a. About how many teens are between 62 and 70 inches?

Draw a normal curve.

62 and 70 are 2σ away from the mean. Therefore, about 95% of the data are between 62 and 70.

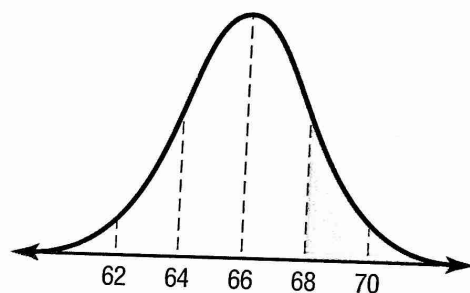
Since $1800 \times 95\% = 1710$, we know that about 1710 of the teenagers are between 62 and 70 inches tall.



b. What is the probability that a teenager selected at random has a height greater than 68 inches?

From the curve, values greater than 68 are more than 1σ from the mean. 13.5% are between 1σ and 2σ , 2% are between 2σ and 3σ , and 0.5% are greater than 3σ .

So, the probability that a teenager selected at random has a height greater than 68 inches is $13.5 + 2 + 0.5$ or 16%.



Guided Practice

GRADES The grade-point averages of 1200 students at East High School are normally distributed with a mean of 2.6 and a standard deviation of 0.6.

- 3A. About how many students have a grade-point average between 2.0 and 3.2?
- 3B. What is the probability that a randomly selected student has an average less than 3.8?

Your Understanding

Step-by-Step Solutions begin on page R20.



1. **ACT** The table at the right shows recent composite ACT scores. Determine whether the data appear to be *positively skewed*, *negatively skewed*, or *normally distributed*.

2. A normal distribution of data has a mean of 161 and standard deviation of 12. Find the probability that random value x is less than 149, that is $P(x < 149)$.

3. **SCHOOL** Mr. Bash gave a quiz in his social studies class. The scores were normally distributed with a mean of 21 and a standard deviation of 2.

- a. What percent would you expect to score between 19 and 23?
- b. What percent would you expect to score between 23 and 25?
- c. What is the probability that a student scored between 17 and 25?

| Score | % of Students |
|-------|---------------|
| 33-36 | 1 |
| 28-32 | 9 |
| 24-27 | 19 |
| 20-23 | 29 |
| 16-19 | 27 |
| 13-15 | 12 |

Source: ACT, Inc.

Example 1

Determine whether the data appear to be *positively skewed*, *negatively skewed*, or *normally distributed*.

4.

| 20 Most Visited National Parks | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Visitors (millions) | Number of Parks |
| 3-4 | 10 |
| 4-5 | 2 |
| 5-6 | 2 |
| 6-7 | 1 |
| 7-8 | 1 |
| 8+ | 4 |

5.

| Tallest Buildings in the World | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Stories | Number of Buildings |
| 0-39 | 1 |
| 40-59 | 11 |
| 60-79 | 35 |
| 80-99 | 9 |
| 100+ | 6 |

Example 2

A normal distribution of data has each mean and standard deviation. Find each probability.

6. $\mu = 74, \sigma = 6, P(x > 86)$

7. $\mu = 13, \sigma = 0.4, P(x < 12.6)$

8. $\mu = 63, \sigma = 4, P(59 < x < 71)$

9. $\mu = 91, \sigma = 6, P(73 < x < 103)$

Example 3

10. **CAR BATTERIES** The useful life of a certain car battery is normally distributed with a mean of 100,000 miles and a standard deviation of 10,000 miles. The company makes 20,000 batteries a month.
- About how many batteries will last between 90,000 and 110,000 miles?
 - About how many batteries will last more than 120,000 miles?
 - About how many batteries will last less than 90,000 miles?
 - What is the probability that if you buy a car battery at random, it will last between 80,000 and 110,000 miles?
11. **HEALTH** The cholesterol level for adult males of a specific racial group is normally distributed with a mean of 158.3 and a standard deviation of 6.6.
- About what percent of the males have cholesterol below 151.7?
 - How many of the 900 men in a study have cholesterol between 145.1 and 171.5?
12. **FOOD** The shelf life of a particular snack chip is normally distributed with a mean of 180 days and a standard deviation of 30 days.
- About what percent of the product lasts between 150 and 210 days?
 - About what percent of the product lasts between 180 and 210 days?
 - About what percent of the product lasts less than 90 days?
 - About what percent of the product lasts more than 210 days?
13. **VENDING** A vending machine dispenses about 8 ounces of coffee. The amount varies and is normally distributed with a standard deviation of 0.3 ounce.
- What percent of the time will you get more than 8 ounces of coffee?
 - What percent of the time will you get less than 8 ounces of coffee?
 - What percent of the time will you get between 7.4 and 8.6 ounces of coffee?