Guide to:
Stem and leaf diagrams

maths Links

Explanation:

A **stem and leaf diagram** splits each number into a **stem** (usually the tens digit) and a single-digit **leaf** (the units digit). Always write the leaves in **numerical order from smallest to largest** moving outward from the stem, and **always include a Key** (e.g. 2 | 5 = 25).

For n values, the median is at position $\frac{n+1}{2}$. For the range, subtract the very first number (top stem, first leaf) from the very last number (bottom stem, last leaf).

Example 1: This ordered stem and leaf diagram shows the ages of **15 people**.

1	4 7 8 8 9
2	1 3 **5** 6 6 6 9
3	0 2 4

Key: 1 | 4 represents 14 years (15 values in total)

Example 2: Using the diagram in Example 1, find: (a) the **mode** (b) the **median** (c) the **range**

Solution:

(a) **Mode:** Leaf 6 appears three times in row 2 → **26**

(b) **Median:** $\frac{15+1}{2}$ = 8th value → count to 8th leaf = **25**

(c) **Range:** Largest (34) − Smallest (14) = **20**

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