

Name _____ Date _____

Be an Investigator**Description of Investigation and Student Report**

Dear Investigator _____,
(name)

I am the president of a company that sells cement and gravel to hardware stores. I need to keep all my stores stocked with bags of cement and gravel. Each store keeps an inventory of the bags of each kind that they have in the store. When they are out of cement or gravel and have customers waiting for one of these items, they report the number of bags on back order as a negative number.

I need to supply the stores with the most back orders first and then supply the stores that have some on hand. I want to supply the stores with the fewest number of bags of cement or gravel first. In other words, I need to supply the stores in numerical order, from those with the most on back order to those with the most in stock.

I hear you know a lot about ordering rational numbers. Could you give me a list showing which store I should supply first, second, and so forth, for cement and for gravel?

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,
Jerry Lee

Copyright © Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

Information**Joe's Hardware Store**

$3\frac{1}{4}$ bags of cement
-2.9 bags of gravel

Al's Hardware Store

-5.25 bags of cement
 $1\frac{3}{5}$ bags of gravel

Susan's Hardware Store

$-5\frac{1}{2}$ bags of cement
 $1\frac{1}{3}$ bags of gravel

Pete's Hardware Store

-3.25 bags of cement
-2.09 bags of gravel

Zelda's Hardware Store

3.75 bags of cement
 $1\frac{5}{6}$ bags of gravel

Name _____ Date _____

Be an Investigator

Student Report

Dear Mr. Lee,

Here is the order of the stores for stocking the cement.

Here is the order of the stores for stocking the gravel.

I hope this helps.

Yours truly,

Investigator _____
(your name)