

WHAT IS MATH?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Question

You have been studying math for a number of years but have you ever given any thought to *what* it is? In the space provided below, write a few short paragraphs that outline *your* impressions of what you believe the subject of mathematics is all about. (If necessary, feel free to write on the back of this sheet.)

Your response should include, but does not need to be limited to, your thoughts on each of the following:

- What is the primary purpose or goal of mathematics?
- What sorts of questions does math allow us to ask and answer?
- How is math applied in the so-called “real world?”
- What does a professional mathematician do?
- How would our human world be different if math did not exist?

