

Name: _____



Flu Season

In “Disease Detectives” (p. 12), you read about how epidemiologists are tracking an influenza virus. During flu season, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publishes weekly tallies of confirmed flu cases. Complete the activity below to learn more about flu trends in the United States in three consecutive flu seasons starting with fall 2005.

Weekly Totals of Confirmed Influenza Cases in the U.S.

First Date of Week	Number of Cases
October 17, 2005	23
December 19, 2005	635
February 6, 2006	1,007
April 10, 2006	431
June 12, 2006	25
August 14, 2006	12
October 16, 2006	80
December 18, 2006	729
February 5, 2007	2,532
April 9, 2007	515
June 11, 2007	26
August 13, 2007	19
October 15, 2007	43
December 17, 2007	305
February 4, 2008	4,575
April 7, 2008	587

SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Graph It

Create a line graph showing the weekly total number of confirmed influenza cases in the U.S. from the week of October 17, 2005, through the week of April 7, 2008. Be sure to give your graph a descriptive title, and label the *x*- and *y*-axes.

Analyze It

1. During which week was the total number of flu cases the greatest? The least?
2. What is the overall trend in the data?
3. In which season do the fewest flu cases tend to occur?