

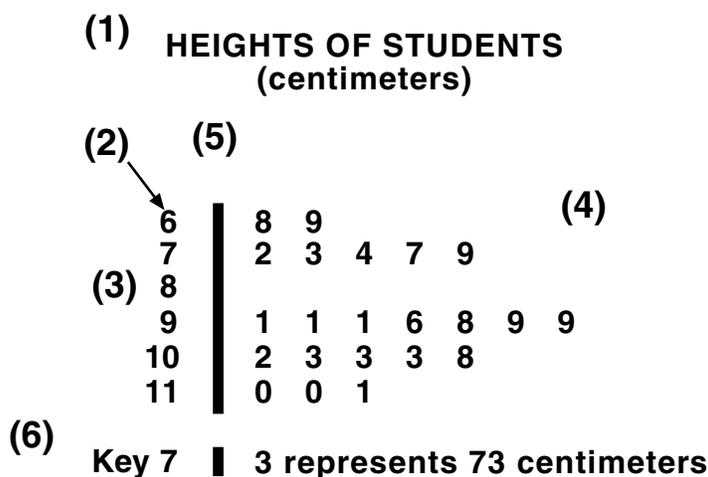
COMPONENTS OF AN EXEMPLARY STEM-AND-LEAF PLOT

Guidelines for Creating Data Displays

Reference: Maryland Mathematics Content Standards (May 19, 2000), Indicator 4.5.2

Components of a stem-and-leaf plot:

- 1 Main title for the plot
- 2 A complete number scale (stem) that accommodates the extreme values of the data set
- 3 Values for the stem written vertically from least (top) to greatest (bottom) values. This is the most commonly referenced way to organize data for the stem.
- 4 Values for the leaves written from least to greatest, with the least value closest to the stem (Commas that separate the leaf values are not necessary.)
- 5 A vertical line separating the stem from the leaves
- 6 A key



Notes:

- (1) This display is known also as a stem-and-leaf diagram
- (2) Students may draw a first draft of their stem-and-leaf plot prior to constructing the organized, or final, version. The first draft is not acceptable for receiving a full score on MSPAP.
- (3) All stem values for the range of the data set should be included even when no leaf values exist (see the stem value 8 above). This helps students easily identify a gap in data.