Since scientists can't count every tree in a forest, they have to <u>estimate</u> how many trees there are. To do this, they divide a forest up into smaller areas, generally into squares. Then they go out to that forest and count the number of trees in a few squares and average those numbers. To estimate of the TOTAL number of trees in the forest, scientists multiply the average number of trees in a square, by the total number of squares that cover the forest! Let's estimate how many trees are in this forest!

1. Pretending you are out in a forest, select <u>any</u> three boxes and count the number of trees in each.
_____ = trees in box 1   _____ = trees in box 2   _____= trees in box 3

2. Using your tree numbers from question 1, find the mean (or average) number of trees per box. Ask your teacher if you don't remember how to find a mean.   Average trees in one box =

3. Now, count up how many squares cover your forest and multiply that number by your average.

_____ *(squares cover this forest)*

x _____ *(average # of trees in each square)*

= _____ **TOTAL trees in the forest!**