

Task: Handshaking

Set the Scene:

1. Have students run around the class shaking hands with each other, and keeping track of who they have shaken hands with.
Pen and paper can be helpful for keeping count.
2. Re-group. Have students each count how many different people they shook hands with. Keeping their numbers SECRET!
3. Ask the class: what is the chance that two of you have shaken the same number of hands?
4. Wait for all guesses, then start counting off numbers: Anyone shake zero hands? One other person? Two other people? ... until you get two students put their hands up at the same time.
5. Repeat (1)-(4).
6. Break into smaller groups. Have them guess the likelihood of a match and repeat the experiment.