

MathsJam Shout

September 2023
Talking Maths in Public

Earlier this month was the Talking Maths in Public conference, a gathering of maths communicators. Alongside useful discussions about communicating maths, people also shared some fun maths things you might enjoy!



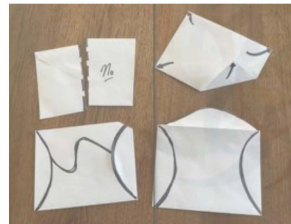
Make Tooti Tooti

Keynote speaker Chaim Goodman-Strauss shared the activity he was awarded the 2021 Rosenthal prize for – Tooti Tooti is about symmetry groups of planar tessellations.

Take a plain envelope, seal it, and draw a set of lines on each side that:

- reach every corner on both sides
- do not cut the envelope into more than one piece
- are all connected up to each other
- may cross over to the other side of the envelope

Cut along these lines and unfold the envelope. The resulting shape will tessellate the plane (can you see why?) and can be used as a template to draw a tessellation. Where are the points of symmetry, and what kind do they have?



Full activity PDF:
bit.ly/tooti-tooti

Trick Squaring numbers that end in a 5

Keynote Howie Hua shared a cool trick for easily squaring numbers that end in a 5.

Write down several numbers that have a 5 as their last digit. Calculate their squares. Can you see a pattern? Can you prove this pattern will always work? What about for numbers over 100?

Play Music Gadgets

We saw several examples of musical maths gadgets, including groove-lab.com (shared by keynote Anna Maria Hartkopf) and Mathigon's Polypad has musical components, shown in this great demo: mathigon.org/polypad/tmipdemo

Draw Maths Art Challenge

Scientist and illustrator Hana Ayoob shared some of her mathematical art challenges – try these and set your own! You can score each other, or allocate yourself the points.

Draw a 2D representation of a 3D shape in 2 minutes.

1 point for completion, 1 point for ambition

Draw a simple tessellating pattern in 1 minute.

1 point for completion

Draw a recognisable mathematician in 3 minutes.

1 point for completion, 2 points if someone near you recognises who it is!

Hana's website: hanaayoob.co.uk



MathsJam Shout is a monthly sheet of ideas for activities to do at a MathsJam night. It's created using suggestions from a different MathsJam each month, and if you'd like to submit suggestions for a month in the future, email katie@mathsjam.com for details.

MathsJam is a monthly opportunity for like-minded self-confessed maths enthusiasts to get together in a pub and share stuff they like. Puzzles, games, problems, or just anything they think is cool or interesting. Monthly MathsJam nights happen in over 70 locations around the world, on the second-to-last Tuesday of each month. To find your nearest MathsJam, visit the website at www.mathsjam.com.