

Closest to One Game

Materials: Pad of Sticky Notes

The Game:

Give each player a single sticky note. Each player will write their name and a single number on the sticky note. Whoever writes the number that is closest to 1 wins.

Rules:

1. Only Natural numbers can be selected (1, 2, 3 ... no decimals/fractions)
2. If two or more players pick the same number, both players are eliminated

Suggestions:

Write the numbers 1 to 20 on the board.

Try to keep all student choices a secret.

Reveal the answers one at a time by placing them above the numbers on the board (which will create an image like a bar graph)

Number Sets

This is an opportunity to talk about number sets – the difference between integers, whole numbers, natural numbers and rational numbers.

Consider doing a couple of rounds where students can only pick Natural numbers. This will help them understand the game.

Then do a round where they can pick Whole numbers (0, 1, 2, 3...) Technically 0 and 2 could now tie for the win!

Then do a round allowing integers (... -2, -1, 0, 1, 2...) Probably not many negative numbers will get picked but it at least opens the conversation.

Finally do a round where Rational numbers are allowed (mention how a rational number is any number that can be written as a fraction, and often displayed as a decimal - don't feel you need to talk about the difference between Rational and Irrational numbers unless you want to). This round provides a nice opportunity to discuss infinity: $0.99999999\dots$ is infinitely close to 1.