

[RETIRED] INTERACTIVE: What If You Played the Lottery?

Interactive: [Texas Powerball Check Your Numbers](#)

Teachers: Before starting this activity, you will need to create a copy of this [spreadsheet](#)¹ to collect your class data. If you share it with students electronically, as a Google spreadsheet, they'll each be able to enter their data themselves. Otherwise, you can enter everyone yourself **or** create a non-digital method of sharing classwide data.

Part I: How to play the *Powerball*

Powerball is one of the big-winner lottery games, in the same category as *Mega Millions*, that you sometimes hear about in the news for awarding prizes in the hundreds of millions. First, read up on [How to Play the Powerball](#) in Texas. You may also want to review the [prize chart](#) for a little more insight.

- Next, pick your "lucky" numbers:

Ball 1 (1-69)*	Ball 2 (1-69)*	Ball 3 (1-69)*	Ball 4 (1-69)*	Ball 5 (1-69)*	Powerball (1-26)

*Balls 1-5 cannot repeat numbers.

- Will you pay an extra \$1 per ticket for *Power Play*?

- Assume you're playing these same numbers, twice per week, for the last 180 days (26 weeks). How much will you have paid for lottery tickets in this time period? Remember, \$2 per ticket, or \$3 per ticket with *Power Play*.

Part II: Check your winnings

- On the upper right, use the "CHECK YOUR NUMBERS" section on the [TX Lottery webpage](#) to enter the 6 numbers you selected above and click "Check Results." Note: There's nowhere to enter "yes" if you're choosing the *Power Play*. We'll figure that out later. How many times did you win with your lucky numbers?

¹ [How To: Entering & Editing Data](#)

5. If you did NOT select *Power Play* (question #2 above), look at the “Prize if Matched” column. If you DID select the *Power Play* (question #2 above), look at the “Total Prize w/ Power Play” column. How much **total** money did you win?

6. Calculate your net winnings by subtracting your purchase price for lottery tickets (question #3) from your winnings (question #5). What is your net gain or loss after playing these numbers for half a year?

Part III: Compare with the class

7. Enter your name (unless your teacher pre-entered it), whether you paid for Power Play, and your winnings (question #5) into the classroom data spreadsheet provided by your teacher.

8. Complete the questions below, using the data your class generates:

a. What was the largest amount any student won “playing” the lottery?

b. When you consider the maximum amount won, how does it make you feel about your own winnings?

c. What fraction of students won NO money at all? Why do you think that number is as low (or as high) as it is?

d. Is it a good idea to pay the \$1 extra per ticket for the *Power Play*? Why or why not?

e. Now that you’ve played this simulation in class, if a family member told you they were going to begin playing the lottery, what advice would you give them? Be sure to explain the

rationale for your advice.