LEADER'S NOTES · REMOVE BEFORE PLAYING

THE IDEA

A group's chance of a shared birthday depends on the number of pairs, and pairs grow much faster than people.

BEFORE YOU START

Print these notes once. For each group, print the group deck double-sided (flip on the long edge) and the group pages. Cut out the cards and keep them in order: cover, then Cards 1 to 14.

One deck per group of 2 to 6, or show the screen version to a whole class. One answer sheet per group.

Don't explain the idea first. The discovery is the point.

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RUNNING IT

Turn one card at a time. On every COMMIT card, groups write an answer before anyone turns the next card.

Cards 1 to 4: two guesses, two reveals. Most people guess far too high. That's expected.

Cards 5 and 6: the turning point. Give groups a minute to explain before the reveal.

Cards 7 to 12: the idea in new places. Anniversaries break the rule; tournaments show pairs again.

Card 13: discuss. Card 14 is for anyone who wants the math.

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QUESTIONS TO ASK

What did you notice that you didn't expect?

Why did 2 people work for anniversaries but not for birthdays?

Where else do pairs hide? Handshakes, matching passwords, teammates who could disagree.

23 OR MORE PEOPLE?

Try it for real at the end: everyone says their birthday. With 23 people, a match happens about half the time; with 40, about 9 times in 10.