

Probability

Activity 3 - Tossing Shells

People often flip a coin when they want to make a quick decision about something. For example, if you don't know what to eat for supper you can say: "We'll have pizza if we get heads, and we'll have Stir Fry if we get tails." Flipping a coin is not always the best way to make decisions; nevertheless, it is frequently used. Some societies use shells instead of coins. Shells are also used for fortune telling and games of chance. For this activity you may use pasta shells or buttons instead of real shells.

Activity Experiment:

- Toss a shell 10 times.
- Record the number of times it lands with the opening up or down.
- Repeat for 10 more tosses.
- In this experiment a successful outcome occurs when the shell lands with the opening up.
 - Write down the success fraction for each set of 10 tosses, using the formula:

$$\text{Success Fraction (SF)} = \frac{\text{Total number up}}{\text{Total number of tosses}}$$

$$\text{(SF)} = \frac{\text{Total number up}}{10}$$

	Tosses in sets of 10				
	10	20	30	40	50
Number of times opening up					
Number of times opening down					
Success Fraction					
SF in decimal form					

Can you believe THIS is math?

Activity Questions:

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Can you believe THIS is math?