

WISDOM OF THE CROWDS ACTIVITY

Preparation: Make a copy of the attached survey for each student. Pass it out and ask them to complete it without talking to anyone else.

Activity: There are two groups of questions, easy and hard. They have been intermixed intentionally so the students won't necessarily know which is which. Start with the easy questions. First, go through and have the students vote on their answer. Record on the board what the majority believed. Grade the majority votes and grade each student. See how the majority did relative to each individual student.

Repeat this now for the hard questions.

Hopefully: the majority did better than any individual student on the easy question. What about on the hard questions?

Easier: 2, 3, 4, 6, 8

2. True or false: the peacock's tail is used to attract mates? (true)
3. True or false: a defendant once said that he shot a person to impress the actress Jody Foster? (true)
4. True or false: microwaves heat food by exposing it to electromagnetic waves? (true)
6. Which city has a larger population Mumbai or Delhi? (Delhi)
8. What is the which commandment in the Hebrew bible declares that "thou shalt have no other gods but me"? (First)

Harder: 1, 5, 7, 9, 10

1. True or false: A defendant once tried to claim that Twinkies made him commit a crime? (false)
5. True or false: if an earthworm is cut in half it can grow into two new worms? (false)
7. What does the bible say that Adam and Eve eat in the Garden of Eden? (A fruit, but not an apple)
9. Which city has a larger population Istanbul or Tokyo? (Istanbul)
10. True or false: placing metal in a microwave oven damages the microwave? (false)

RANDOM FACT QUIZ

1. True or false: A defendant once tried to claim that Twinkies made him commit a crime.
2. True or false: the peacock's tail is used to attract mates.
3. True or false: a defendant once said that he shot a person to impress the actress Jody Foster.
4. True or false: microwaves heat food by exposing it to electromagnetic waves.
5. True or false: if an earthworm is cut in half it can grow into two new worms.
6. Which city has a larger population Mumbai or Delhi?
7. What does the bible say that Adam and Eve eat in the Garden of Eden?
8. What is the which commandment in the Hebrew bible declares that "thou shalt have no other gods but me"?
9. Which city has a larger population Istanbul or Tokyo?
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