

An unplugged interactive systems thinking activity for children and young people.

Children and young people are challenged to come up with a better system to win the game.

Aim

To encourage participants to get thinking about how to make an existing system work in a better way.

Age range

Open to all ages – but most well suited to late primary and secondary school learners.

You will require

- A group of children, preferably around 20 or so.
- A jar of marbles or tokens or any items you like to use as 'prizes'.
- You may even wish to use small lollies, early minutes, stickers or anything you think your participants will like. Make sure it's small though because you'll be giving out multiple prizes.

Lesson Plan

Ask the children to close their eyes, and for anyone who wants a 'prize' to put up their hand. However if too many put up their hands, only those who did not put up their hand get a prize. Then allow the group to discuss ways to create their own improved system.

Activity Overview

Tell the group:

'The aim of this game is to win a prize.

I am going to give a prize to anyone that puts up their hand.

But if more than two thirds of the class put up their hand then only the people without their hands up will get a prize.

Your eyes will be closed and you cannot talk to each other before deciding to put up your hand.'

After explaining the activity, ask everyone to close their eyes and decide whether to put up their hand.

Record the number with their hands up.

Ask everyone to open their eyes.

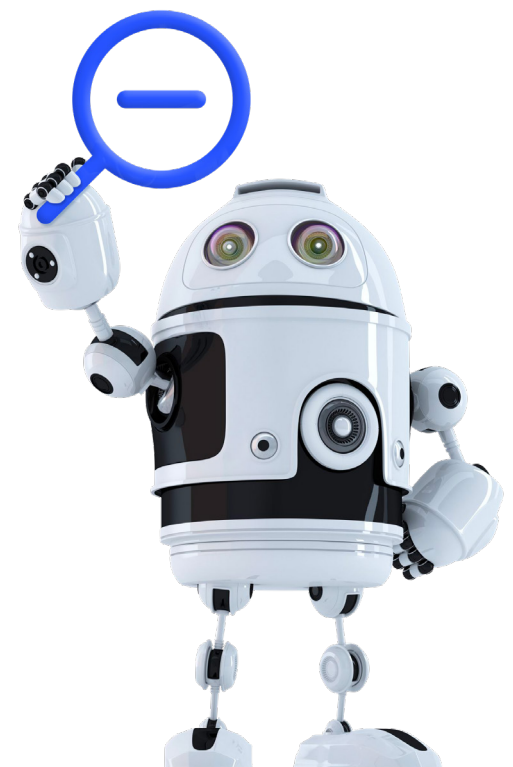
Reveal the winners.

Ask the group if they would like to play again and repeat the above steps two more times.

Now survey the group.

Who got one prize? Two? Three?

Did anyone get zero?



Discussion (and suggested answers)

How can you make sure you get a prize?

Can you make sure other people get a prize?

How can you make sure the maximum number of people get a prize?

Was this a fair game?

If not, how can you make it fair?

If we have limited resources to share, what are some alternative systems we can use to distribute them?

