

Birth Months

You need: cardboard, classmates

ACTIVITY

Each student in Room 14 wrote their birth month on a card. Their teacher called out 5 students' names from the roll, and these students stood at the front.



April

August

June

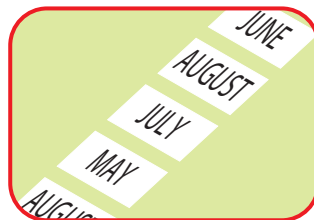
August

March

Look – Louise and Ma'afala were born in the same month.

The chances of that happening can't be high.

Rewi and Jack wondered about the chance of 2 or more people out of 5 having the same birth month. They collected birth month cards from everyone in the class and carried out some trials like this:



No shared month	Shared month
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- They shuffled the cards.
- They laid 5 cards down.
- They recorded the result (that is, whether 2 or more cards had the same month on them).

Do the same activity in your class. First, collect birth months from all your classmates.

- Carry out 30 trials. That is, lay down 30 sets of 5 cards. Shuffle the cards before each trial. Record your results.
- Looking at the results, what seems to be the chance of 2 or more students out of 5 having the same birth month?
- Is the chance greater or less than you expected? Explain why.