

Practical Title: Guess What?

Focus and Principles: A generic cross-curricular challenge for Higher Order Thinking

Equipment: A Guess What? matching selection of objects, words or pictures for each pair. Between 8-18 items depending on the level of challenge.

Time: 25 min

Suggested pupil group size: Pairs

Challenge: To guess what item your partner has chosen using the smallest number of yes/no questions.

Further instructions:

- Guess What? is based on the game Guess Who? It challenges pupils to think about similarities and differences for a set of 8-18 different items, and to carefully choose yes/no questions that will help them to determine which item their partner has chosen using the smallest number of questions.
- Pupils might think about appearance, texture, features, what the items are made from, how they were formed, what they are used for, whether they are/were living, or *anything else* they can think of based on their direct observations, knowledge or experience.
- For the pupil who is asking questions they can remove, cover or cross out the items they have ruled out as they play.

Extension:

- Another example of this type of game, which gives pupils practice in the skill of posing useful closed questions is for one person (pupil or teacher) to choose (or be assigned) an item. This could take the form of a laminated image that they hang on their back or so that others cannot see it. Pupils then have to use yes/no questions to guess e.g. 'What's my material?' or 'What's my insect?' etc. As with Guess What? the challenge is to deduce the answer using the smallest number of questions.

Useful links:

<https://scienceoxford.com/resources/science-oxford-challenges/make-your-own-garden-version-of-the-game-guess-who/>

Health & Safety:

Teachers always need to risk assess practical activities for their children and defer to their health and safety advisor for the most up-to-date source of health and safety guidance. This training cannot be relied upon as source of health & safety guidance.

