

Nerdo the Mathnificant

Where Nerdo?

Overview

This is a trick which is numeric in the process, but can be solved algebraically. This is a group activity which everyone can do individually. Stress that in order to get the right thought across everyone should remain quiet.

Materials

None

Steps

1. Instruct everyone to pick a number. The smaller the better because you will be doing this in your head.
2. Double the number.
3. Add 8 to the number.
4. Divide by 2.
5. Subtract the original number from this number.
6. Find the letter in the alphabet which corresponds to that number. i.e. A=1, B=2, C=3 etc.
7. Now think of a country which starts with the letter you have.
8. Take the second letter in the country's name and think of an animal from that country.
9. Now think of the color of that animal.
10. In most cases it will be a gray elephant from Denmark.

Math

1. n =original number
2. $2n$
3. $2n+8$
4. $(2n+8)/2 = n+4$
5. $n + 4 - n = 4$
6. 4 equals D
7. D = Denmark
8. second letter is E
9. E = elephant

Example

1. 23
2. $2(23) = 46$
3. $46 + 8 = 54$
4. $54/2 = 27$
5. $27 - 23 = 4$