

Majority and Minority: How Do We Decide?

Directions: Answer the questions and discuss the answers. Use manipulatives to visualize the problems when possible.

1. If ten kids are voting on whether to play tea party or light saber battles, how many need to vote for tea parties in order for that game to win?
2. Mom and Dad want to get a pet rabbit. Sam wants to get a dog, and Billy wants to get a six-legged weasel. If the family goes by majority rule, which pet will they get?
3. If nine boys get together to form a sports team, and six want to play football, but three want to play soccer, which sport will the team play?
4. Fourteen kids wear jeans to the playground, and six kids wear shorts. Which is in the minority, shorts or jeans? What do you think the weather is like?
5. If six cowboys are riding across the plains, and a majority of the cowboys are wearing hats, what is the smallest number of cowboys that must be wearing hats?
6. Twenty people from 18th street are planning a picnic. Everyone is deciding whether to buy strawberries or cantaloupe. If nine people voted for strawberries and three people couldn't decide, how many voted for cantaloupe? Which fruit did everyone eat?
7. Seven families want to leave on the field trip at 8:00 AM. Four families want to wait until 10:00 AM because they can't get ready that early. If the families set the departure time by majority rule, how many families will be going on the trip?
8. There are six kids in the family, plus their teacher, Mom. If three kids want to start with math, and three kids want to start with reading, who is the deciding vote?
9. There are six boys at the party and eight girls at the party. The movie they watch will be decided by majority rule. Do you think the kids at the party will watch *Transformers* or *Enchanted*?
10. If the camp leader has 48 marshmallows and 90 campers, will the majority of kids get a marshmallow? What should the rest of the kids eat?

1. _____

6. _____

2. _____

7. _____

3. _____

8. _____

4. _____

9. _____

5. _____

10. _____