CONSENSUS GAME: GUESS HOW MANY?

In this section you can:

- practise decision making by playing a game
- experience the difference between decision making by individuals and groups
- try different forms of decision making
- explore what influence the number of people can have on the quality of decision making.

For more information about methods of decision making look also at *How do we reach agreement* in this pack.

This is a simple game in which you have to make simple decisions, but as soon as you are playing in a group you have to agree on **one** decision together.

This is what you need:

- a big jar (bottle, dish, box or bowl)
- about 30 to 60 small objects e.g. a match, a button, a bead, a paperclip etc.

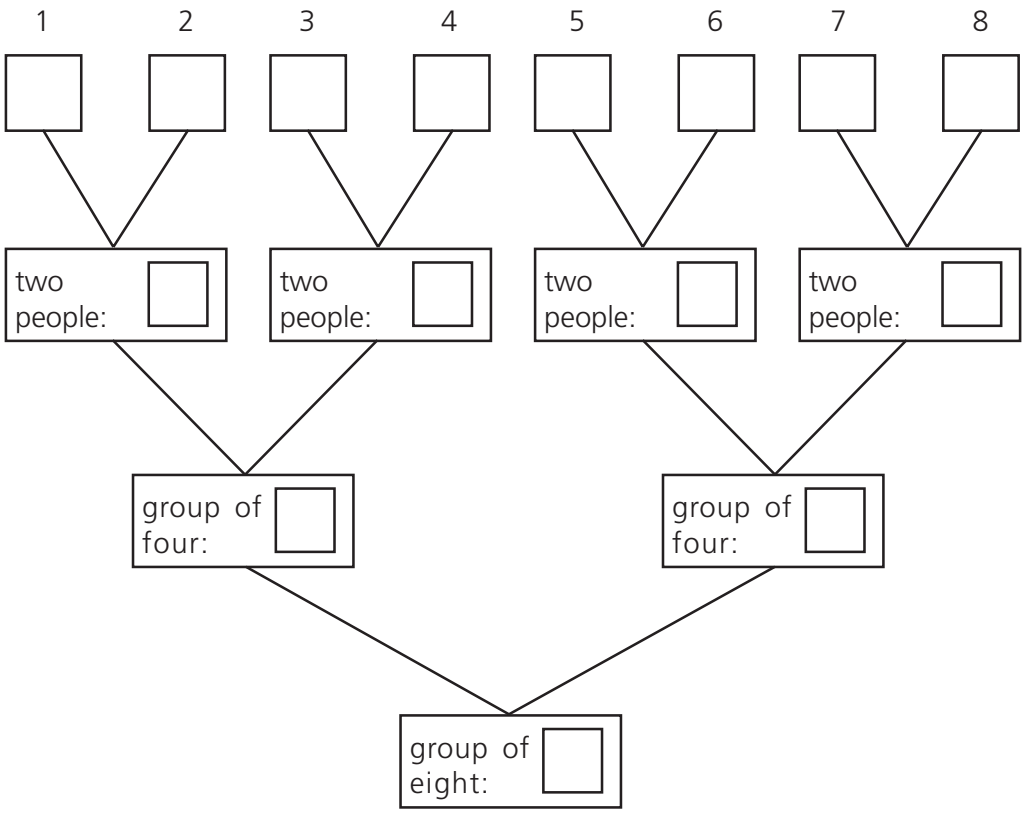
Activity 1

- One person puts more than 30 objects into the jar, he/she is the only one who knows the exact number.
- Put the jar in the middle of the group and let everybody guess/estimate the number of objects. Talking is forbidden. Everybody writes down his/her estimate without showing it to the others.
- Look for a partner and estimate together. Perhaps while talking about the problem you can think of a method to estimate or calculate better. Write down your agreed estimate.
- Look for another couple to work with and make an estimate. Try to think of a better method. Write down the group's estimate.
- Look for another group of four and repeat the process.
- If the group is large enough, look for another group of eight and do the same.
- At the end the person who put the objects into the jar, announces the exact number.
- Which was your closest estimate?

Activity 1 continuity

Activity continued

Fill in the diagram, here you see an example:



What have you learned?

Evaluation Questions

Did your estimates vary very much?

How did you feel during the process of decision making? How active were you?

Did the people in your group make a difference to your decision making?

Evaluation Questions continued

How did the groups make a decision?

Did the method change with the number of group members?