

KS4

Maths of coincidences

Super Curriculum

Welcome to the Maths Super Curriculum!

Below, you'll discover a variety of activities designed to challenge and extend your learning beyond the Key Stage 4 classroom curriculum.

This term we are looking at the mathematics of coincidences.

Read



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/future/article/20230830-the-unexpected-maths-problem-at-work-during-the-womens-world-cup>

There was something strange about the recent Women's World Cup in Australia. Many of the international teams had players who were born on the same day of the year – they shared birthdays. What was going on?

This is a counterintuitive phenomenon known as '**the birthday problem**'.

Watch



<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now/maths-coincidence>



Listen



<https://podcasts.apple.com/nz/podcast/the-science-of-coincidence/id343580439?i=1000633881895>



Are some people just lucky? Is there a formula behind coincidences? Is randomness the norm? Brian and Robin team up with comedian Sophie Duker, mathematician Marcus Du Sautoy and statistician David Spiegelhalter to uncover the reality and the maths behind seemingly incredible coincidences.

Do



<https://nrich.maths.org/problems/same-number>



FAVOURITE PROBLEM

Same Number!

Age: 14 to 16

Challenge level: ★★☆☆

If everyone in your class picked a number from 1 to 225, do you think any two people would pick the same number?