3. Probability

Subject: Statistics

Objective: To introduce students to graphing and chance (probability).

Logistics: This experiment is best conducted in groups of three or four.

Materials:
   bags of multi-colored M&M's (one bag for each student).

Procedure:

Step 1: Each student arranges candies by color and draws a bar chart starting with the color with the largest number to the color with the least.

Step 2: Each group then combines individual results and prepares another chart. Does the sequence change when the total number of candies in the group is charted?

Step 3: Group totals are added to produce a class total. Does the sequence change? Which color is the most frequent? Which is the least frequent? The concept of probability or chance is introduced. If all the candies are placed in a bowl and a student reached in and selected one, which color is it most likely to be? Why?

Step 4: Discussion of chance in lotteries, raffles and other similar situations and how odds can be computed.

Vocabulary: *chart, sequence, chance, probability, statistics*

What they Learn: Students see how statistical science can be used in everyday occurrences and with commonplace items.

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