

Appendix 3Q.1

Estimate How Many

Estimate the answer to each problem. It is not necessary to determine the exact number. Think of a benchmark that will help you make your estimation. Be prepared to explain your strategy.

1. Imagine your teacher is hosting a parent meeting in your classroom. If the classroom is emptied of all its furniture, approximately how many chairs can be put in it?
2. The group of parents prepares a special meal for the whole school. Each student will receive one hot dog, two cookies and a carton of milk. How many hot dogs, cookies and cartons of milk will it take?
3. Some people have one or more pets, others have none. How many people in your school have pets? If we put all these animals together, how many would there be?
4. It doesn't take long for you to write your name quickly. If you write it a few times, it might take you longer. How long would it take you approximately to write your name 1000 times?
5. Approximately how many teeth do all the students in your class have together?
6. Your school plans a skating trip for all the students as well as their siblings. If every child who comes is entitled to a hot chocolate, how many cups of hot chocolate will need to be prepared?
7. If all the people in your school lay side by side to form a straight line, what do you think would be the length of that line?
8. The secretary gives the students a pencil for their birthday. If she gives a blue pencil to the girls and a red pencil to the boys, how many pencils of each colour should she buy?

Provide students with multiple opportunities to estimate quantities by asking them to estimate the number of objects in a container each week. Fill this container with different items at the beginning of each week. Students can write their name and estimation on a piece of paper and place it in a box during the week. Count objects on Fridays. This activity helps determine if students are improving the accuracy of their estimations over time. The winner may receive a prize or have the honour of choosing the items in the container the following week.