

Goal: Conduct an open-ended survey, and then organize and analyze results

Grades: 2-6

Minimum number of participants: 4

Suggested grouping: individual

Time: 10 minutes or less

Math: analyzing categorical data

Materials:

Markers

Large piece of plain or grid paper

Post-it notes

Pencils

Prerequisites: reading and writing

Books about categories:

To come

Before beginning

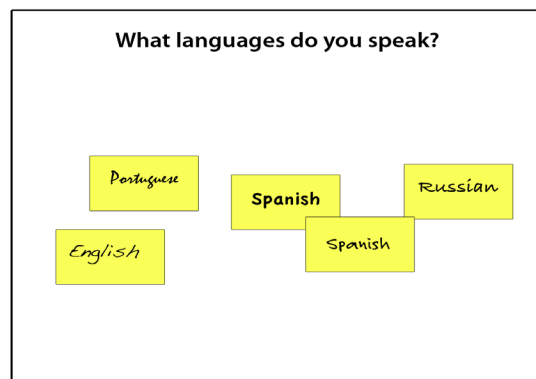
Think up an open-ended question children will enjoy answering. Write the question at the top of a large sheet of paper.

Examples:

In what country were you born? What's your favorite fruit?

1 Everyone responds

Children use post-it notes to show their answers. If the question is posted in a public area, encourage others to respond as well.



2 Organize the responses

How can we organize the responses so we can compare them?

Talk About...

For instance, if the question is about languages spoken at home, one approach is to put all the post-its listing the same language together. A further step could involve grouping languages by region (Asian languages, Eastern European, etc.).

Ask for volunteers to help organize the responses.

3 Explore the answers

Ask children to look over the organized answers and say what they notice:

What's the most common answer? What's the least common?

What else do you notice?

Talk About...