



INVESTIGATIONS

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GUESS WHO?

One of my favourite games is *Guess Who?* It has many different entry points and allows students of various ages and stages of development to engage in the same game but at different levels. This investigation shows how you can use '*Guess Who?*' across F–6.

FOUNDATION AND YEAR 1

The simple act of posing and answering questions is a challenging skill for Foundation and Year 1 students.

Guess Who? requires students to pose a question, listen carefully to the answer, and then decide upon which characters to eliminate based on their opponents answer. 'Yes' or 'no' questions require students to apply executive functioning skills such as impulse control when unpacking answers (for example, they answered x , that means I should only eliminate these characters).

YEAR 2 AND 3

One of my favourite adaptations for *Guess Who?* is to cover the characters with numerals. This allows students to practice the same game structure, but apply their knowledge in a different context. Playing this game allows students to explore using vocabulary in context, such as odd, even, more, less, greater than, less than etc.

YEAR 4

Steve Wyborney's 'Esti-mysteries' are similar to *Guess Who?* Clues are given and according to the responses, numbers are eliminated. Year 4 students love to complete Esti-mysteries and then can take their knowledge and work in pairs to create their own Esti-mystery for another pair. There is a great deal of maths involved in creating an Esti-



mystery and checking that it works. Esti-mysteries can be found for free at <https://stevewyborney.com/2019/09/51-esti-mysteries/>

YEAR 5 AND 6

For the senior students there is so much maths that underpins *Guess Who?* There is strategy, probability and chance.

There is an amazing YouTube clip which investigates the most effective questions to ask in *Guess Who?* to increase your chances of winning. Year 5 and 6 students love to watch this, and then can use mathematical modelling to explore their own strategies and contentions. Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRiBNOno5VA.

What kinds of investigations have you used in your classroom as a launch for mathematical exploration? Our readers would love to hear your experiences. You can share your ideas with us at primenumber@mav.vic.edu.au.