MIND TREKKERS

Fractions are Friends

Amount of time Demo takes: 3-5 minutes

Materials:
1. Set of blue fraction cards
2. Set of green fraction cards
3. Calculator

Set up instructions: Do this for each station.
1. Lay the cards on the table face down in separate piles by color.
2. Place the calculator on the table (use this for fraction disputes but not for every set!)

SAFETY!
1. Safe demo

Lesson’s big idea
● This demo is a math demo. It will help participants get a better grasp on fractions and how they relate to each other.

Instructional Procedure
1. Allow each person/team to randomly draw ten (# can vary) cards from their colored pile. This will be their deck to play with. Set the other cards aside.

VARIATION 1 (works best with all participants)
1. Tell the teams to shuffle their cards while not looking at them and then place them into a pile face down.
2. At the same time the teams will each flip their top card face up in the middle of the table. Whichever team has the larger fraction wins that set (i.e. ¾ beats ½). Think like the card game 'War.'
3. At the end of the ten sets, whichever team has won more sets is the winner. If there is a tie, allow them to draw one more card each from the big deck to play and decided the winner.

VARIATION 2 (works best with older participants)
1. Tell the teams to hold their cards in their hand so that they can see them all.
2. The teams are allowed to strategize and pick which cards they want to play in which order. They will have to sacrifice some low cards and plan how to win the most sets with their high fractions.
3. At the end of the ten sets, whichever team has won more sets is the winner. If there is a tie, allow them to draw one more card each from the big deck to play and decided the winner.

In event of uncertainty or dispute: Have participants use the calculator to determine a winner! If they ask you, “Which of these is bigger?” and you don’t know offhand, that’s fine; turn the question around into a learning moment for the students by handing them a calculator and encouraging them to find out themselves!

Assessment, Sample questions you can ask:
1. Why are fractions important? (they are the building block for other math skills)
2. What are some examples of daily life that involve fractions? (cooking, money)

Clean Up
• Separate the decks by color and rubber band them.
• Turn off the calculator and put the lid on it.

National K-12 Science Standards
• List by K-4, 5-8, 9-12 for each standard covered