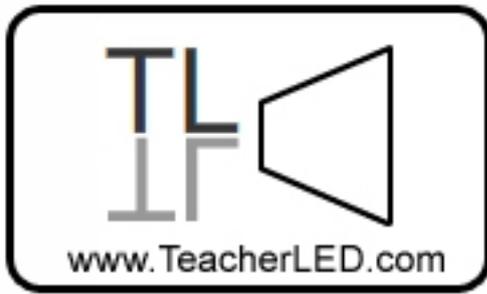




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## Probability ESP Test

### **On-line resource instructions.**

Are your students psychic? Conduct a probability experiment with them to determine this very question. This can be done using your Interactive Whiteboard with each student coming out and doing it on the spot. In the ICT room each student can conduct their own experiment on a separate computer.

This resource is based on real experiments in the 1930s by Karl Zener who designed the cards used (now known as Zener Cards). The purpose is to test for clairvoyance. There are 5 different types of card and 5 of each design giving a deck of 25.

Students are shown the back of a card and are asked to choose what they think the card is. The resource keeps a tally and presents a frequency at the end. The frequency is only given at the end to



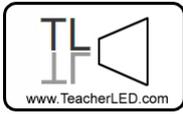
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emulate the normal use of tally charts. As a point of interest the order of the deck in this resource is predetermined before the first card is shown, allowing the potential for real precognition!

The resource restricts itself to 25 cards to emulate the original experiment. Test subjects in the original experiment would have conducted the test numerous times to produce a bigger sample. Inevitably in a class of 30 somebody will beat the statistical probability by some amount. This gives the potential for discussion of the importance of a larger sample size.

Influence of other factors can also be discussed as students may work out that counting cards can give them a higher accuracy towards the end. An interesting experiment for consistent high scorers is for them to do the test without seeing the screen so they do not know which cards have gone.

Provided at the end of this document is a printable sheet of Zener cards. Print it for a full deck to be able to conduct the test the old fashioned way. Also included is a table for students to participate in their own test as one does it on the IWB.



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One issue to consider with this resource is religious sensitivities. Some parents may not be happy with their children doing such a test even if only for mathematical demonstration purposes.

| Correct/Incorrect | Tally | Frequency |
|-------------------|-------|-----------|
| Correct           |       |           |
| Incorrect         |       |           |

Select which card you think it is

Next Card

Restart experiment

### Buttons:

The cards: Each card is clickable to make the choice of prediction. This will result in the offered card being revealed.



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Next Card: When the student's mind is ready this button will cause the next card to be offered.

Restart Experiment: Everything is reset. The deck is shuffled, the tally table is cleared.



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