

# CANDY PROBABILITY

Probability is a description of how likely an event is to occur or how likely something is to be true. We can use ratios, fractions, or percentages to represent this. Using candy as a visual aid, we can learn how to do this!



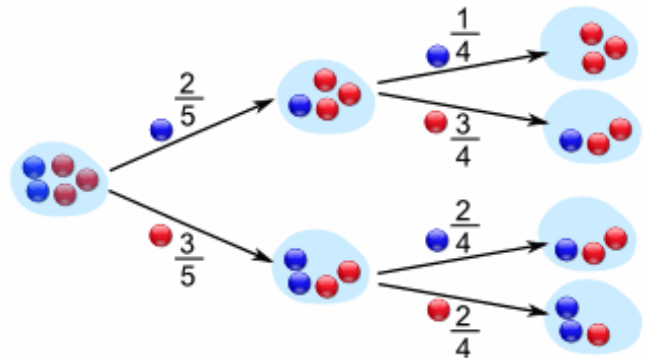
## Materials

- Small multi-color bag of candy (such as M&M's®)
- Paper
- Colored Pencils or Markers
- Plate or Bowl

Time – 20 minutes

## Instructions

1. Take the bag of candy and estimate how many pieces you have in all. Record your response and then decide how many of each color is in the bag.
2. Open the bag, sort, and classify the candies according to color. Compare your actual numbers to what you hypothesized earlier. Creating a pictograph is a great way to represent this (i.e. a bar graph or a pie chart).
3. Continue to expand this activity by using a larger bag of candy!



## Background Information

On June 21, 2004 SpaceShipOne became the first privately-designed, built, and funded crewed vehicle to enter space. One of its pilots, Mike Melvill, had grabbed a packet of M&M's® so that he could show weightlessness once outside the atmosphere. Based on the actual ratios of the previous experiment, how many of each color do you think flew in space?



## References

<https://teachers.net/lessons/posts/4072.html>

<http://www.collectspace.com/news/news-100414a-m&ms-spaceshipone-xprize-10-years.html>

