

# Guess My Rule

GUESS THE SECRET RULE!

## What You Need

- 10–20 different objects (like shoes, pencils, pens, rocks, coins, paper clips, small toys, etc.)
- a friend



1 First, **group** together a few objects that have something in **common**, like size or color. (You don't need to use all the objects.)



2 Then have your friend **guess** the "rule" you used to group the objects. (For example, they are short. Or, they are red.)



3 To **help** your friend figure out the rule, he or she can think of an object that is not in the group and ask if it **belongs**. You can only answer "**yes**" or "**no**."

4 **Switch roles**. Let your friend put together a group of objects, and then try to guess the rule.

Sent in by Katie G. of Storrs, CT



Try It Out!



Now it's time for you to **experiment**. Try making up **different rules** for the same collection of objects. Or use the same rule for a **different collection of objects**. What happens if you use only two objects? Can someone still guess your rule? Send your **best rule** to ZOOM and tell us what objects fit into the group.

## Science Scoop

When you notice how objects are **similar** or **different**, you're thinking like a scientist. Scientists put things into groups by looking at how they are alike or different. This is called **classification**. For example, one way scientists classify trees is by their leaves: Trees that drop their leaves each year are called **deciduous**; trees that don't drop their leaves are called **evergreen**. When scientists find a new type of tree to classify, they ask **yes-or-no questions** to decide which group it belongs in. If they ask, "Does this tree drop its leaves each year?" and the answer is "yes," then the tree is deciduous.



ZOOM is produced by WGBH Boston. Funding for ZOOM is provided by the National Science Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, and public television viewers. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

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