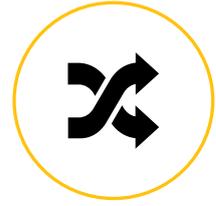


MAKING DECISIONS

What's the best way to make important decisions?

Investigate 4 different approaches with your class.



Decisions for ourselves and others

- 1 Divide the class into pairs. Show students the pictures of the snacks. Ask students to discuss which snack they would like for themselves, and why. Next, in their pairs, ask the students to decide:
 - What snack they would provide for their pair, and why
 - What snack they would provide for the whole class, and why
 - What snack they would provide for the class every week at school and why.
- 2 Share or tally student responses and discuss why different decisions may have been made. Did the students make different decisions for themselves than they did for others? Why might this be? Explain that representation involves making decisions for other people.

Types of decision-making

- 3 As a class come up with a practical idea which might improve your school in some way, but which might not be popular with everyone, for example:
 - No unhealthy food in the school canteen
 - First fifteen minutes of every school day is for exercise and stretching
 - Students should have to wear school uniform/stop wearing school uniform.
- 4 Tell students there are a number of ways that they could make this important decision. Use the *Decision-making* table to explain and complete the activity.
- 5 Discuss the following questions with your class:
 - Which form of decision-making was most efficient?
 - Was it difficult to reach agreement? Why? What difference would 60 students or 120 students make to this method?
 - Which form of decision-making was most fair? Least fair? Why?
- 6 Tell the students that the federal Parliament uses majority rule rather than consensus for making decisions. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this method.

Curriculum links

Year 5 (ACHASSI103)	Year 9 (ACHCK103)
Year 6 (ACHASSI131)	(ACHCS085)
Year 7 (ACHCS058)	(ACHCS087)
Year 8 (ACHCS072)	Year 10 (ACHCS098)
	(ACHCS100)

Snacks



STRAWBERRIES



SANDWICH



CHOCOLATE CUPCAKE

Decision making table

Decision method	Instruction	Result
 AUTOCRATIC DECISION	Randomly select an autocrat to decide.	
 EXECUTIVE DECISION	Choose a small executive (two or three people) to decide.	
 MAJORITY DECISION	Open ballot: Conduct a vote with a show of hands. The majority decides. Secret ballot: Conduct a vote by writing on a piece of paper. Then have someone count the votes and declare the outcome.	
 CONSENSUS DECISION	Encourage students to think of ways to compromise. Keep discussing until everyone agrees (or you run out of time).	