

# Grab 300

**Number of Students:** Pairs

**Materials:**

- Large container of drinking straws (around 5000)
- Box of rubber bands or pipe cleaners
- 1 score sheet per student
- 1 pencil (or whiteboard marker if score sheet is laminated) per pair

**Preparation:**

If the whole class is participating, the collection of straws could be separated into two or three piles to facilitate student access.

Sufficient score sheets need to be photocopied / printed.

Score sheets can be laminated for longevity, although this is not strictly necessary.

**How :**

Working as a pair, the students agree on how large a pile of straws to take from the container, without counting, with the aim of getting as close to 300 straws as possible.

Once they have their pile, the students firstly bundle the straws into groups of 10 using a rubber band or pipe-cleaner to secure each bundle. If there are sufficient groups of 10, these are then bundled into groups of 100, again securing each bundle with a rubber band or pipe-cleaner.

The students use this bundling method to determine how many straws they have, then write this number down on their score sheet in the "Try 1" box. The straws are then unbundled and returned to the container.

Students repeat this procedure twice more, use the information they have gained to adjust their guess each time, with the aim of becoming more accurate in their estimate of how big a pile 300 straws would constitute.

At the end of this activity, students can be led in a discussion, comparing results amongst groups to determine which group had the closest estimate.