

Awesome Icebreakers

H-J

Activities to Bring Out the Best in Your Group

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How Many in Your Party?

Purpose: A good mixer that helps students learn more about their fellow group members

Group Size: 10 to 50

Time: 15 – 30 minutes

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Explain that you are the maître d' at a fine restaurant and will be calling out seating arrangements for the group. Let the group mingle around the room a bit before you call out "Table for two (or three, or whatever number you choose)."
2. If you call out "table for two," group members pair off and introduce themselves. You will then give them a question to discuss at their "table." The first question could be "What are your favorite foods to eat?"
3. Give the groups a minute to discuss the question and then call out the next seating arrangement.
4. Each time, after the groups have formed, have them introduce themselves and discuss the question you give them.
5. Possible questions are:
 - What is something you really want to do in the next year?
 - What do you hope to get out of this class (workshop, meeting)?
 - Who can you always go to for good advice or a listening ear? Why?
 - What is your favorite thing to do outdoors?
 - What is your favorite season or holiday and why?
 - What talent would you really like to have?
 - What is/was your favorite Halloween costume?
 - When you have time to just sit and think, what do you think about?
 - Who should you write a letter or email to and why?
 - What is your favorite ride at an amusement park?

How Many Squares?

Purpose: Shows how working together can help achieve greater success and more accuracy; shows the difficulty of perceiving adequately

Group Size: Unlimited

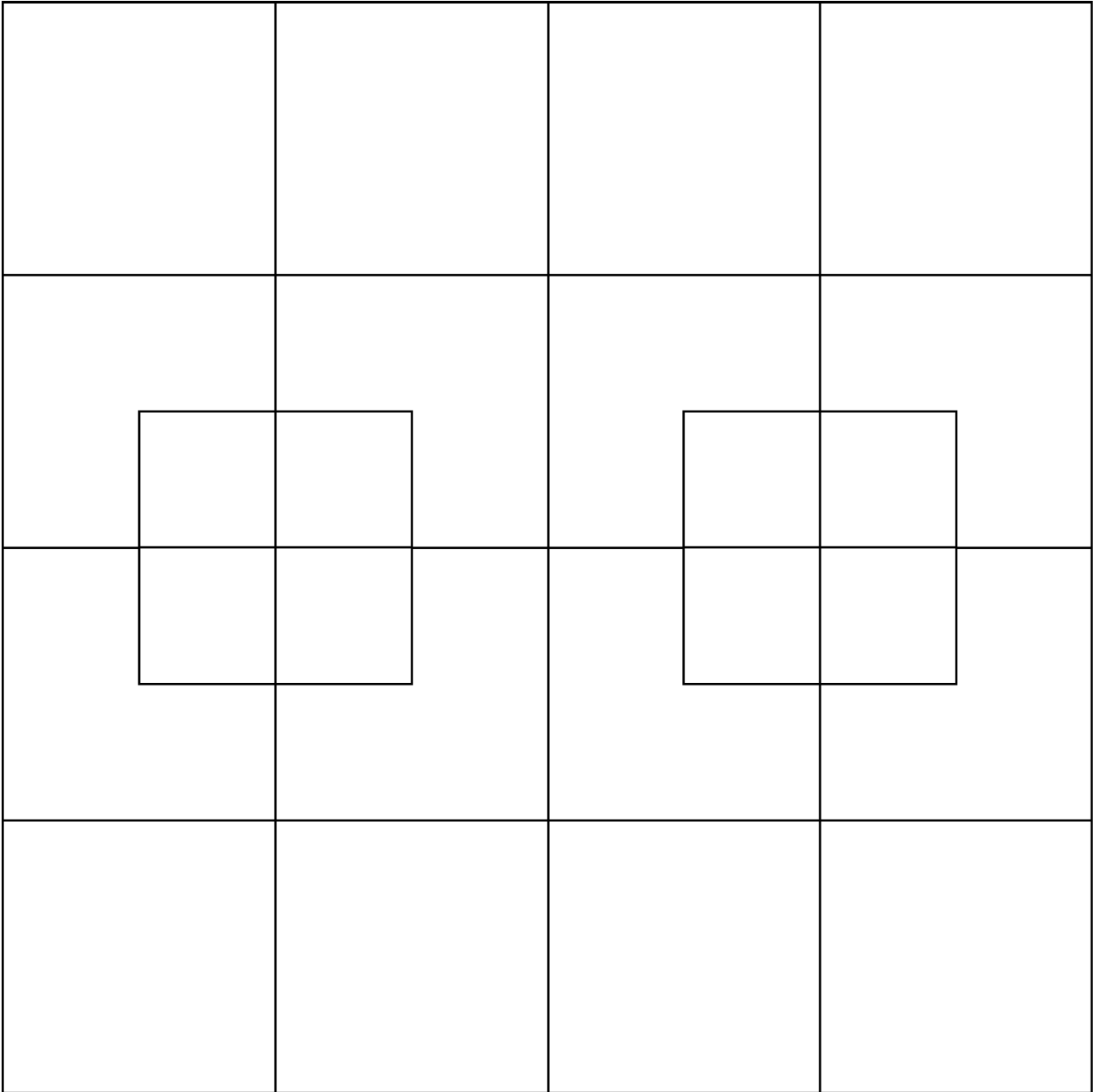
Time: 10 minutes

Supplies: One copy of the How Many Squares? Worksheet and a pen or pencil per student

Directions:

1. Have each person count the squares on the worksheet (page 30) and write the answer on the page.
2. Break up the groups into threes, and have each group reach a consensus on how many squares they can find. (You should find 40 squares.)
3. Process the activity with the group:
 - How many squares did you count on your own?
 - How many squares did you count with your group?
 - Which count was more accurate? Why?
 - What advantages/disadvantages are there to working in a group?
 - In which way do you work best – in a group or alone? Why is that a good thing to know about yourself and to know about other people you may have to work with?

How Many Squares? Worksheet



I Can Find That! Worksheet

This is a game of searching, noticing, and finding. Here is a list of items you and your group members need to find and check off the list. Please write down where the item was found. All items are in this room. All are in plain view. You do not have to move anything to find these items. When you find an item, leave it where it is, and play it cool. Good luck!

Item:	Where Found:
1. large paper clip	_____
2. match	_____
3. ruler	_____
4. paper airplane	_____
5. sunglasses	_____
6. eraser	_____
7. shiny confetti	_____
8. penny	_____
9. kazoo	_____
10. balloon	_____
11. lipstick container	_____
12. runner band	_____
13. band-aid	_____
14. aspirin	_____
15. button	_____
16. spool of thread	_____
17. key	_____
18. postage stamp	_____
19. thumbtack	_____
20. nail	_____