

Making Statistics Fun in the Classroom

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Too many data resources used at school are not engaging or fun for either the students or the teachers. In many cases hands-on data activities in the classroom are often avoided by teachers of KS3 and KS4 mathematics in the UK. The activities typically used involve data which is safe, predictable and the outcomes are limited to ensure the task of marking and assessment is made easier. Statisticians are partly to blame, as the promotion and marketing of the discipline within education has been poor, leading to students believing statistics is boring, difficult and dull. We explore innovative ways of engaging students and teachers with activities that are fun and initiate student led statistical enquiry. An overview of existing resources together with the new Classroom Olympics activity, 'Sprint', are featured. With a positive experience in the use of statistics at a younger age the perception of the subject can only improve. This in turn would encourage an interest in, and development of essential data skills for the future generation of data users and decision makers in a multitude of disciplines.

Key Words: Hands-on data activities, Classroom Olympics.