

# CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2008 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Henry R. Solomon

**Project Number** 

**J1319** 

**Project Title** 

Is Bingo Random?

#### **Abstract**

## **Objectives/Goals**

My experiment was designed to test whether winning at Bingo is random.

#### Methods/Materials

Materials used:

- 1. 4 different Bingo cards
- 2. A Bingo Set: a Bingo calling cage, a bingo ball counter, and 75 bingo balls
- 3. 50 Bingo recording sheets
- \*Note: All of the Bingo balls were counted to make sure that there where 75 of them.

## Experimental Method:

- 1. Turn the lever on the calling cage one time to dispense ball.
- 2. Record the following:
  - a. The number on the ball
  - b. The column the ball came from
  - c. The order in which the balls were called.
- 3. When the game finishes, record the following:
  - a. How long the game took
  - b. The amount of calls until a Bingo showed up on a card
  - c. The five number Bingo sequence
  - d. Whether the sequence used the FREE space
  - e. The winning number
  - f. Whether the Bingo sequence was vertical horizontal, or diagonal
  - g. The card that had the Bingo.
- 4. Repeat this process 50 times

#### **Results**

In the winning card test, Card #2 won 40% of the time versus the 25% probability. Similarly, 36% of the winning numbers were in the O column, versus the 20% probability. These two tests indicated that winning at Bingo is not random. However, in the FREE space test, 62% of the winning sequences did

## **Summary Statement**

My project tested whether winning at Bingo is random.

## Help Received

My family and friends played Bingo with me but I recorded all the data. My dad helped me with the equations to identify the expected probabilities for winning using the free space and winning horizontally, vertically, and diagonally.