

WHY DOESN'T IT BELONG?

Why Doesn't It Belong? (WDIB) is an adaptation of the classic "Cookie Monster" song from Sesame Street (One of these things is not like the others... <https://youtu.be/ENFJUEM0XTc>). The problem structure is appropriate for warmups and review. WDIB problems mostly appear in the Review section of many *MathLinks* packets, and sometimes they're found within a lesson.

WDIB is NOT a multiple-choice question. Typically, an argument can be made for several (perhaps all) of the choices to "not belong."

Why: Engage students in mathematical work, promote divergent thinking, encourage students to apply mathematical and reasoning skills, encourage mathematical discussions.

Prepare ahead:

- Choose an appropriate WDIB problem or create your own.
- Think about possible student responses and questions to ask.
- Create a display of the problem.





Launch the activity:

- Use non-math WDIB problems first to establish routines and norms for think time, write time, and discussion.
- Give students time to think about WDIB individually. Then encourage pair shares and group discussions.

Accountability/Follow-up:

- Ask students to write WDIB responses on a post-it note and place it on the problem. Then discuss ideas. Using post-it notes is a great strategy for assessing student thinking, especially when using WDIB as an exit ticket.
- Consider a WDIB problem as a group quiz or competition. The group with the most creative and clear reasons why each option does not belong might earn an extra credit point or bragging rights!
- WDIB examples can be found on websites such as <http://www.meaningfulmathmoments.com/which-one-doesnt-belong-wodb.html> and <https://mashupmath.com/blog/wodb>.

WHY DOESN'T IT BELONG?: FOOD

A 	B 
C 	D 

Possible responses:

A doesn't belong because it's red fruit that's cut/sliced.

B doesn't belong because it's not a red fruit.

C doesn't belong because it's a red fruit in a bunch.

D doesn't belong because it's a red vegetable.

WHY DOESN'T IT BELONG?: NUMBERS

9	16
25	43

Possible responses:

9 doesn't belong it is the only number whose digits don't add up to 7

16 doesn't belong because it is the only even number.

43 doesn't belong because it is not square of another number.