

Death by Numbers



A

Find a partner who has sheet B.

Look at the five statements. Each statement is about a number. Read the statements one by one to your partner. Your partner will suggest a number as a possible answer. If you agree, write the number down. If you disagree ask your partner for another number.

When you have finished change rolls. Listen to each statement read by your partner. Choose one number from the box below as an answer. If your partner agrees cross the number out. If your partner disagrees offer another number. Use each number once.

A. The amount of money the United States has spent on the invasion of Iraq.

B. The amount of money the United States has offered as aid for the tsunami.

C. The amount of money the United States spends on aid each year.

D. The percentage of Gross National Product that the United States spends on aid.

E. The current annual military budget of the United States.

FOLLOWUP: With your partner think of reasons why money is spent on weapons and who benefits. Does poverty or global warming have anything to do with this?

The numbers can be found online by reading articles at the following links:

Last of the Big Time Spenders (Center for Arms Control and Non-proliferation)

<http://64.177.207.201/static/budget/annual/fy05/world.htm>

The Lancet And The Bodies In Question (The Observer)

<http://politics.guardian.co.uk/iraq/story/0,12956,1345444,00.html>

An unnatural Disaster by Paul Brown

http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,1118244,00.html

The victims of the tsunami pay the price of war on Iraq by George Monbiot

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,1382857,00.html>

The Other Tsunami by John Pilger

http://www.truthout.org/docs_05/010905Z.shtml

98,000

400,000

35,000,000

12,000,000

1,000,000

Death by Numbers



B

Find a partner who has sheet A.

Listen to your partner read five statements. For each statement choose one number from the box at the bottom of the page below as an answer. If your partner agrees cross the number out. If your partner disagrees offer another number. Use each number once.

When you have finished change rolls. Look at the five statements. Read the statements one by one to your partner. Your partner will suggest a number as a possible answer. If you agree, write the number down. If you disagree ask your partner for another number.

- A. The number of people worldwide who protested in the streets against the invasion of Iraq.
- B. The number of civilians killed in Iraq since the invasion, according to a study by the Lancet.
- C. The number of children under the age of 5 killed in Iraq by sanctions before the invasion.
- D. The number of children under the age of 5 who die worldwide every year because of poverty.
- E. The number of species that will go extinct in the next 50 years because of global warming.

FOLLOWUP: With your partner think of reasons why money is spent on weapons and who benefits. Does poverty or global warming have anything to do with this?

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350,000,000

148,000,000,000

0.14

420,700,000,000

16,000,000,000