Center for
SCIENCE $\mathcal{E}$ MATH EDUCATION

There's obviously a lot of luck involved in this game, but is it possible to use strategy to give yourself a better chance of getting a high score?

The one choice you get to make in this game is whether or not to flip a card over before seeing the next card. Let's think a little bit about how to make this choice.


If you draw a card and the side facing up has a plus, do you think the other side is more likely to be a plus or a minus? (Circle one)

| More likely | $50-50$ chance <br> of having a <br> to be a <br> plus or a <br> minus | More likely <br> to be a <br> minus |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| plus |  |  |



If you draw a card and the side facing up has a minus, what do you think the chances are that the other side has a plus? (Circle one)

## More likely <br> to be a plus

It's okay if you're not sure! For now, just make your best guess.

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## Playing the Odds

Here's one way to figure out the odds:

- Repeatedly draw a card from the bag and record whether the side facing up has a plus or a minus, then flip it over and record whether the other side has a plus or a minus

Doing this by hand would take a long time! Instead, we'll have a computer do this for us. Before running the computer simulation, predict what you think will happen! Then run the simulation and record what actually happened. Did it match your prediction?


Of the times when the side facing up had a plus, what \% of the time did the other side have a plus? (Circle one)

## Less than <br> 45\% <br> Between 45\% and 55\%



Of the times when the side facing up had a minus, what \% of the time did the other side have a plus? (Circle one)

## Less than 45\%

## Between 45\% and 55\%

More than 55\%

Based on your results, if the side facing up has a plus, do you think you should flip the card or not? What if the side facing up has a minus?

