

Workshop Abstract: “What happens when.....?”

Mr Kerry J Thomas

Senior Maths Teacher, All Saints Anglican School, Gold Coast Australia.

Title: “What happens when.....?”

Throughout the ages, as teachers of mathematics, we are hit with the same question from inquiring minds. When teaching periodic functions for instance, how do we show the effects of the variables on amplitude, phase shift, and period?

With the onset of technology we have seen the evolution ways we can answer these questions. Gone are the time-consuming pre-drawn posters, and board work. We are in a time when people demand instant results to more possible scenarios.

Graphing Calculators (GC) have been able to fill this need to some extent, but the power of an Excel spreadsheet far surpasses the GC in this application.

This workshop will explore the use of the simple “Scroll Bar” in creating a visually pleasing display in Excel, that allows students and teacher to graphically explore numerous functions and an answer that age old question....”what happens when”.

Images with maths

Rüdiger Vernay, Bremen, Germany

The trigger was Richard Phillips CD with "problem pictures" - photos, which should initiate mathematical activities. Some of these looked very suitable for my classroom teaching. They offer possibilities for further investigations and the various ways to the solution cause discussions about maths, in short: rich learning tasks. The experiences in the classroom were positive - a reason for me to look for further "images with maths".

I would like to present some of the pictures of the English CD and own photos (one example you can see below) and report about the classroom experiences.

In addition I would like to look for ideas for further "images with maths" together with the participants.

Images with maths

Images with maths

Ice cone



How many normal sized scoops of ice-cream fit into this cone?