Canadian Eagles Eat Apples

This type of trick is very common. Max Maven used it on national TV. His version requires a the person to name a country that starts with D. The outcome is supposed to be Denmark. I have not found that students today have that knowledge at hand so I have a North American version I like better.

Tell your students to take out a paper and pencil or pen. Tell them that you will ask them to do a few simple math problems. Then say that for those that like other subjects better I will also ask a few non math questions as well. Ask them to write their answers to the questions you will ask on their paper and do so as fast as they can without making a mistake.

Read out the following instructions to your class.

Step 1: Think of a number from 1 to 10.

Step 2: Multiply that number by 9.

Step 3: If the number is a 2-digit number, add the digits together. (the answer is always 9)

Step 4: Now subtract 6. The answer is 3

Step 5: Determine which letter in the alphabet corresponds to the number you ended up with
Example: 1 = A, 2 = B, 3 = c , e.t.c.   The answer is C

Step 6: Think of a country close to us that starts with that letter. Most will choose **Canada**

Step 7: Remember the last letter of the name of that country. A

Step 8: Think of the name of an fruit that starts with that letter. Most will chose **apple**

Step 9: Remember the last letter in the name of that fruit. E

Step 10: Think of the name of a bird that starts with that letter. Most will choose Eagle

You can then ask them if they are thinking of an Eagle in Canada eating an Apple?

Almost every student will have that set of answers

How does it work?

This trick that should work **most of the time.**   By instruction 3 the number is always 9. Subtracting 6, leaves you with the number 3. The number 3 is then converted to the letter C. The neighboring country will be Canada.   The most common fruit that starts with A is Apple and that ends in E. The most common Bird is an Eagle, though some may say Egret.

Note: You cant just say country or they may say China. If you want use country and finish with " are thinking of an Eagle in Canada or China eating an Apple?

Note: Its fun to have your student change step 3. They can add any number just as well as subtract 6. Have them add 4 to get 13 which is the letter M (Mexico) Orange and the Eagle.

Orange Eating Kangaroo In Denmark

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Note: This version asks for a Country, then an animal and then a fruit.

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Step 6: Think of a country close to us that starts with that letter.

Step 7: Remember the last letter of the name of that country.

Step 8: Think of the name of an animal that starts with that letter.

Step 9: Remember the last letter in the name of that animal.

Step 10: Think of the name of a fruit that starts with that letter.

You can then ask them if they are thinking of an **Orange Eating Kangaroo In Denmark**

Almost every student will have that set of answers

Gray Elephants in Denmark

The teacher tells the class that many people in a large group can be often persuaded to think about the same thing when presented with several statements. For instance if I said think about something that is cold, good to eat, white and made with milk most people will think about vanilla ice cream. What if I started by allowing each of you a free choice to think about anything. Could we find a way that even then many people in the group can be persuaded to think about the same thing.

Each student in the class is asked to think about a small number and is then instructed to perform the following operations **silently.**

1. Pick a small number

2. Double the number.

3. Add 8 to the result.

4. Divide the result by 2.

5. Subtract the original number.

6. Convert this into a letter of the alphabet.

A = 1   B = 2   C = 3   D = 4   E = 5   F = 6   G = 7   H = 8   I = 9   J = 10   K = 11 L = 12
L = 12   M = 13   N = 14   O = 15   P = 16   etc.

7. Think of the name of a **country which starts with this letter.**

8. Think of an **animal whose name starts with the country's second letter.**

9. Think of the **color of that animal.**

The teacher then says "I wonder how many of you are thinking about gray elephants in Denmark." Most of the class will respond that is exactly what they were thinking

 There are elephants in Denmark: Three gray elephants, Kungrao (M) (M), Surin (F) and Tonsak (F) reside in the Copenhagen Zoo.

Not everyone will get the same out come but far more than half will. Remember that way the problem was set up claimed that **many** people in a large group can be driven to think about the same thing.

The trick works in most parts of the world. It works best with people who have a strong knowledge of geography. Students in junior high may be at that level. High school and college students are even more likely to have it work for them. Students in Europe would almost all get the desired ending. Students from the Caribbean may think of an "ostrich in Dominica" instead.

Example

Step 1: Pick a Number	$n_1 = 12$
Step 2: Multiply by 2	$n_2 = 24$
Step 3: Add 8	$n_3 = 32$
Step 4: Divide by 2	$n_4 = 16$
Step 5: Subtract the first number	$n_4 = 16 - 12 = 4$

Convert the number into a letter of the alphabet:

A = 1   B = 2   C = 3   D = 4   E = 5   F = 6   G = 7   H = 8   I = 9   J = 10   K = 11   L = 12

L = 12   M = 13   N = 14   O = 15   P = 16   etc.

Your Number in Step 5 will always be 4.

Most people will choose Denmark.

The second letter in Denmark is an E.

Most people will choose Elephant.

The collor of an Elephant is grey.

The teacher then says "I wonder how many of you are thinking about gray elephants in Denmark."

Why the trick works:

Step 1: Pick a Number	$n_1 = x$
Step 2: Multiply by 2	$n_2 = 2x$
Step 3: Add 8	$n_3 = 2x + 8$
Step 4: Divide by 2	$n_4 = x + 4$
Step 5: Subtract the first number	$n_4 = x + 4 - x = 4$