

COUNTDOWN Challenge

Probability and the U.S. map

The name of each U.S. state is written on a piece of paper, folded and placed in a top hat. Calculate the probability that you will choose a state that begins with each letter of the alphabet, assuming that you always replace the letter in the hat. Complete the table below by expressing each probability as a fraction, decimal and percent (%).

Letter	Name of States	Fraction	Decimal	%
A	Alaska, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas	4/50	.08	8
B		0/50	.00	0
C	Connecticut, California, Colorado	3/50	.06	6
D		-----	----	----
E		-----	----	----
F		-----	----	----
G		-----	----	----
H		-----	----	----
I		-----	----	----
J		-----	----	----
K		-----	----	----
L		-----	----	----
M		-----	----	----
N		-----	----	----
O		-----	----	----
P		-----	----	----
Q		-----	----	----
R		-----	----	----
S		-----	----	----
T		-----	----	----
U		-----	----	----
V		-----	----	----
W		-----	----	----
X, Y, Z		-----	----	----
sum		50/50	1.00	100

On the back of this paper, make the same kind of table. Then, calculate the probability that you will choose a state that ends with each letter of the alphabet.