How to Calculate Your Age by Chocolate

Contributed by Elizabeth Pleacher Cotter

Yes, it's true: If you are old enough to do mathematics and you like chocolate, you might be able to figure out your age. By crunching these numbers (including the weekly frequency of your preference for chocolate), your age is mathematically revealed. It's a nifty trick for kids learning basic mathematics, who can practice it on adults and elicit reactions of surprise and amusement. Try it out to see for yourself, and then read on to find out how it works.

Steps

1. Determine how many times a week you eat or want chocolate.

It must be a number between 1 and 10, including 1 or 10.

- o Let's say you eat chocolate 8 times a week (we won't tell).
- 2. Multiply that number by 2.

o
$$8 \times 2 = 16$$

3. Add 5 to the previous result.

$$016 + 5 = 21$$

- 4. Multiply that by 50.
 - \circ 21 x 50 = 1050
- 5. Add 1757 if you've had a birthday this year.

If you haven't had a birthday this year, add 1756.

- o Let's say your birthday hasn't passed yet.
- 01050 + 1756 = 2806
- 6. Subtract your birth year.
 - o Assuming you were born in 1975...
 - o 2806 1975 = 831
- 7. If the current year is greater than 2007, you must add the difference between the current year and 2007.
 - o Let's say it is the year 2009.
 - o 831+2 = 833
- 8. You'll end up with a 3 digit number, the first digit (in the hundreds place) is how many times a week you eat or want chocolate (the number you specified in the first step). The next two digits are your age!