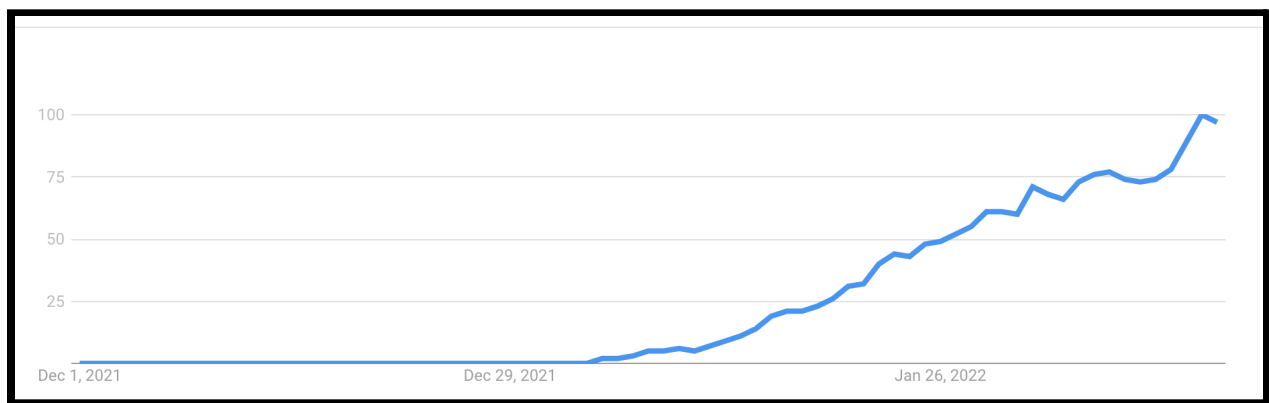Whew, it's March and the days are getting longer! It is also time for the upcoming MN Math Spring Conference which is getting me excited to see many of you in person. If you have not registered, be sure to sign up.

This month, I am not going to share a new resource for you to use in your classroom, instead, I am going to share with you something that has been bringing many of us joy over the last few months. Can you guess? Look at the trending line above…what is it?

It's the wildly popular game Wordle! Do you Wordle? What is your "go to'' first word? Both Dr. Raj Shah, our keynote speaker for the 2022 Spring MCTM Conference, and Dan Meyer have written blog posts about Wordle and why it works. If you have not read these blog posts, stop now and read them.

Why do so many people like Wordle? What can we learn from the design of Wordle and take into our math class? Dr. Shah has done a lot of thinking about this and has created a series of steps for Making Math Irresistible. You can even listen to him talk about it in his TedTalk.

I Help Teachers Make Math Irresistible

Step 1: Agency: Games invite you to be the HERO
Step 2: Start Easy
Step 3: Progressive Challenge
Step 4: Failure is Expected
Step 5: Descriptive Feedback
Step 6: Games NEVER Tell the Answer
Step 7: Make it Social

Here are the steps he talks about. Think through how these steps are embedded in

the game of Wordle. Now consider, how do these 7 steps show up in your math class? What small change could you make to embed one of these steps?

A step that Dr. Shah does not talk about, but was highlighted by my colleagues at Desmos is the fact that Wordle provides more than one way to get to the same solution.

> Lisa Bejarano:
>
> > There's room for creativity and many different routes to each solution.
>
> Shira Helft:
>
> > There's something fun about recognizing that people take different paths to the answer using different strategies based on where their brain is at in the moment.

Don't we love when this happens in our math classroom too? How do you highlight different student thinking in your classroom?

Wordle was first, but there are other versions of this game. I asked on our MCTM Facebook Group and learned other teachers also love these spin-offs: Nerdle, Mathler, Quordle, or Worldle. Which one is your favorite? Why?

If you love Wordle and you want to think about ways to make your math class more irresistible join us at the MCTM Spring Conference or dive into Dr. Shah's website. There are treasures to be discovered and joy to be experienced.

If you can't join us in Duluth, but want to continue this conversation, let's answer the same 2 questions that Dan Meyer asked:

> **Why else do you think Wordle works? What does it have in common with the lessons you've most enjoyed learning or teaching?**

Be sure to share your thoughts in our Facebook Group! I hope to see you in Duluth for the MCTM Spring Conference.

Jessica Breur
Desmos Coach