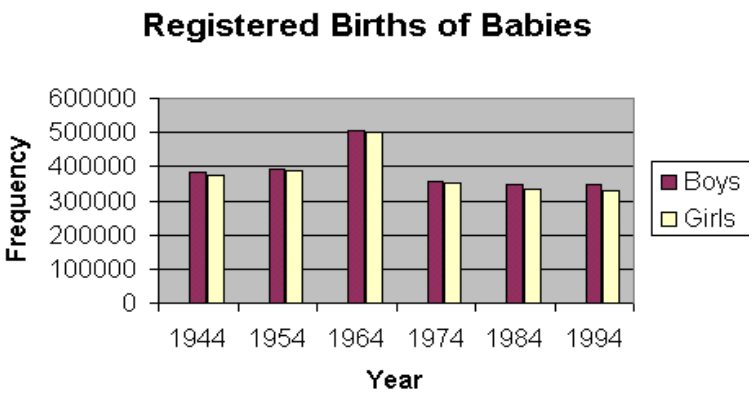
Being born a boy

What do you think the probability of someone being born a boy is? Can you come up with a conclusive argument that you are right? Have a look around your classroom, does the number of boys in the room support your argument?
Do you know how many boys and girls are in your school? If you are not sure, ask your teacher for details. Do these numbers support your ideas? If not, can you think of a reason for this? What data would you need to collect in order to be confident of the chance that you will be born a boy?

Year	Boys	Girls	Total
1944	382217	373377	755594
1954	394627	387138	781765
1964		502850	
1974		350305	707579
1984	347467		679149
1994	347986	329739	677725
Total	2334482	2275091	



The table shows the number of boys and girls **born** in the UK in the given years. Fill in the missing values on the table. Write a sentence about the process you used to deduce the missing numbers.
What do you notice about the different totals?
Is this a consistent pattern across the given years?
Do you find anything surprising about the table or bar chart?
Can you think of reasons for similarities or differences that you have noticed?

Using the data from above, complete this table on the probabilities for boys and girls (round to 2dp).
What do you notice about the results?
Do they support your original ideas?

Year	Boys	Girls
1944	0.51.	0.49
1954		
1964		
1974		
1984		
1994		

Probability of Gender at birth for the given year

Use the following link to investigate further data on births http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nscl.asp?ID=7432

You might want to investigate birth weights and common dates to be born. For further ideas on probability and gender, try http://www.censusatschool.ntu.ac.uk/files/toomanyboys.pdf .

Can you predict the proportions of boys and girls aged 15? Investigate.

This resource was created by the Office of National Statistics at www.statistics.gov.uk