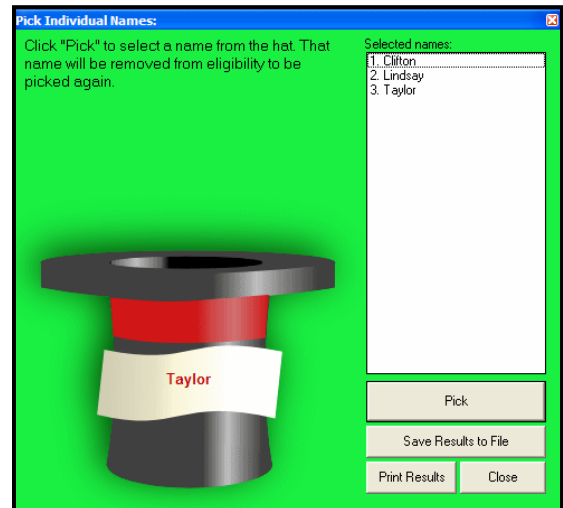


Do you know about **The Hat?**

The Hat is an amazing application for randomly choosing students or teams in the classroom. You don't have to have an Interactive Whiteboard to use it, but a projector is nice. If you have a PC, you can download and install it from the Teaching Resources Smartboard page:

<http://www.lauracandler.com/strategies/smartboard.php>. It won't look like the picture above until you add your names, you'll soon figure out what to do. Unfortunately, there's not a version for Mac users. Sorry! I checked! :-)



What can you do with the Hat?

1. **Picking Individuals** - Enter your students' names one at a time. Then click on the Hat icon at the top to start selecting students randomly. You can even print the list when you finish.
2. **Picking Partners** - Click **File - Pick Pairs of Names**. Amazing! My students never argue with who the Hat picks for a partner.
3. **Multiple Classes** - If you have more than one class, you can save the list of names as a text file by clicking **File -> Save Text to File**. Save each class under a different name and you can easily import them at the start of class.
4. **Picking Teams** - The Hat can even pick teams to respond in addition to individuals. Instead of entering individual names, enter team names or numbers. For example, enter Team 1 or The Whiz Kids. Then save that list to a file. When you want to pick teams to present a report or tell the class an idea, open the Team File.
5. **Creating Semi-Random Teams** - If you want to allow your students to have some choice in who is on their team, try this strategy. Have all your students clear their desktops and stand around the back of the room. Click on the Hat to start picking names. When their name is called, students may sit anywhere in the room, but they may not move after they are seated. Also, they may not save seats or behave in an unwelcoming way towards any student who wants to sit with them.

What other uses can you think of for the Hat? Send them to Laura Candler at lauracandler@att.net or post them on the Teaching Resources Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TeachingResources).