Numbered Heads

1. STUDENTS COUNT OFF - In each group, students count off by the number of students in the group. If you have groups of six students, students count off 1 - 6.   They do this in whatever order they choose. If there is a group with only five students in it, one student will have two numbers.

2. POSE A QUESTION/PROBLEM - The teacher poses a question or problem to the class and tells groups they have a specific amount of time to come to consensus on an answer. The amount of time allotted will depend on whether the question is one with a specific "right" answer or a more open-ended question.

3. STUDENTS PUT HEADS TOGETHER - The students put their heads together to make sure that everyone in the group has the answer or answers.

4. TEACHER CALLS A NUMBER - The teacher calls a number from 1 - 6. All the students with that number stand. One of the standing students is called upon to give their group's answer. Standing students with different answers can be called upon to explain their group's thinking.

Possible variations to numbered heads include:
* Ask all students with the called number to go to the board to simultaneously record their group's answers.
* Use a spinner, dice, or some other random way to call the number.
* If the question has multiple answers, allow each standing student to report just one of their answers. Use the rule, "Be additive, not repetitive."