

- Ms. Hamilton's eighth-grade class wants to participate in the annual three-person-team basketball tournament.

The losing team of each game is eliminated from the tournament. If sixteen teams compete, how many games will be played to determine the winner?

- (A) 4            (B) 7            (C) 8            (D) 15            (E) 16

**2004 AMC 8, Problem #5**

**"How many teams need to lose in order for one team to be left?"**

- **Solution**

(D) It takes 15 games to eliminate 15 teams.

**Difficulty:** Medium

**NCTM Standard:** Data Analysis and Probability  
develop and evaluate inferences and predictions that are based on data

**Mathworld.com Classification:**  
Applied Mathematics > Game Theory > Game