



Activity description

This activity involves estimating and measuring objects using both centimetres and millimetres.

Suitability

Level 1 (Foundation)

Time

Approximately 1 hour

Resources

Student information sheet, worksheet

Optional: slideshow

Equipment

30 cm (300 mm) rulers, tape measures, or 1 m rulers

Variety of objects to measure

Optional: trundle wheel, internet access

Key mathematical language

Estimate, measure, units, millimetre, centimetre, metre, length, width, height, diagonal

Notes on the activity

The slideshow can be used to introduce this activity and to check that students are able to measure in both centimetres and millimetres.

Discuss the Information Sheet with students before asking them to complete the 'To answer' section. Discuss the results and how remembering some of these measurements (as well as the length of a ruler) can help them to estimate lengths.

Provide a range of objects for students to estimate and measure (such as screwdriver, pieces of wood). You could also ask students to include items in the room such as the width of a door. If you wish you could enter the names of items onto the recording sheet before giving it to students to complete (unless you want students to choose their own items).

During the activity

Students can work individually or in pairs when estimating or using a ruler. Advise them to work in pairs when using a tape measure for longer measurements.

Points for discussion

Ask students for suggestions of other things that it would be useful to measure. Include some suggestions of your own (such as length/width of room for carpeting, width of space for a fridge). Discuss the degree of accuracy which it is sensible to use (such as the nearest cm or mm).

Extensions

Students could estimate and measure longer lengths such as the length and width of the room, corridors, or play areas using a trundle wheel if possible.

Measure items using imperial measurements (inches and feet).

Use a search engine to find activities involving measuring on the internet.