

Lesson 6: Measure with Paper Clips

Standards Alignments

Addressing 1.MD.A.2

Teacher-facing Learning Goals

- Measure length by iterating same-size length units without gaps or overlaps.

Student-facing Learning Goals

- Let's measure length with a new tool.

Lesson Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to measure length by iterating same-size length units with no gaps or overlaps.

In the previous lesson, students used connecting cube towers to measure length. In this lesson, students use paper clips to measure. Since these length units are not connected, students need to make sure that there are no gaps or overlaps when they line them up. In the first activity, students use paper clips to measure the length of a rectangle and discuss how measuring with paper clips is the same and different as measuring with connecting cubes. In the second activity, students analyze three measurements of the same object and determine which is correct and why. This discussion helps deepen students understanding of length as a continuous measure of length units, not merely a count of objects in a line. In the third activity, students practice measuring different lengths using paper clips.

Access for:

Students with Disabilities

- Representation (Activity 3)

English Learners

- MLR8 (Activity 1)

Instructional Routines

Estimation Exploration (Warm-up)

Materials to Gather

- Paper clips (1-inch): Activity 1, Activity 3
- Tape (painter's or masking): Activity 3

Materials to Copy

- Measure with Paper Clips (groups of 1): Activity 1

Lesson Timeline

Warm-up	10 min
Activity 1	10 min
Activity 2	10 min
Activity 3	20 min
Lesson Synthesis	10 min

Teacher Reflection Question

As students measured with length units that do not connect, what evidence did you see that students understand why leaving gaps or overlapping units results in an inaccurate measurement of an object's length?

Cool-down (to be completed at the end of the lesson)

 0 min

Unit 6, Section B Checkpoint

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Student-facing Task Statement

Lesson observations

Student Responses

Measure length by iterating length units.