

area * ● * 12 inches = 1 foot * ▲ * 60 seconds = 1 minute

Weight, Capacity,
and Mass

Measurement Scavenger Hunt

Students can sharpen their skills in estimating and visual/spatial reasoning by holding a classroom scavenger hunt.

Directions

1. Prepare a checklist of items students must find in the classroom. Describe each item in terms of some kind of measurement—metric, customary, or both. Include length, width, height, weight, perimeter, area, and volume. Here are some examples:
 - * a book that weighs between 500 and 750 grams
 - * a pencil less than 5 inches long
 - * a student taller than 175 centimeters
 - * a picture whose perimeter is about 20 inches
 - * a container whose volume is about 36 cubic inches
 - * a circle whose diameter is 8 to 10 centimeters
 - * a coin whose circumference is about 7 centimeters
2. Discuss the scavenger hunt rules with students. For instance, do they collect each item, or is it enough for them to identify and describe it? Who verifies measurements, and when? What time limit, if any, should be set?
3. Conduct the scavenger hunt according to the rules you establish. Give each individual hunter or pairs or groups of hunters a checklist of items and access to measurement tools.
4. After the hunt is completed, allow time for students to share how they found, estimated, and measured one item.

Taking It Farther

Have students try a similar activity at home with family members. They can use the same checklist or make up their own. Or have students make up their own checklist of items for an outdoor measurement scavenger hunt.

Assessing Skills

- * Observe as students work on the measurement scavenger hunt. What estimation skills or benchmarks do they employ?
- * Do students' estimation skills improve as they work?
- * With which kinds of measuring skills do students need more practice?

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students locate classroom objects of given length, weight, volume, area, or perimeter.

GROUPING

Individual, pairs,
or cooperative groups

MATERIALS

- * scavenger hunt checklist (see left)
- * assorted measuring tools