

Can I read a scale to find out how long or heavy something is?

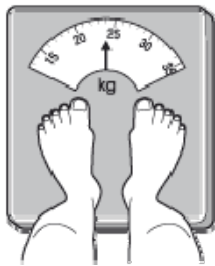
Teaching guidance

Key vocabulary

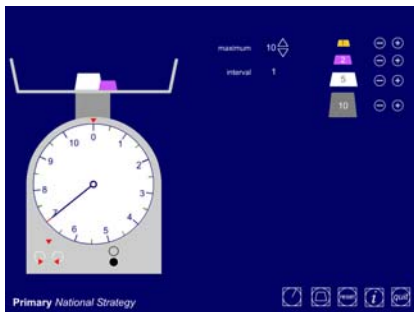
roughly, nearly, about, close to, scale, interval and/or divisions, ruler, unit, centimetre (cm), metre (m), kilogram (kg), half-kilogram, litre (l), half-litre, ruler, metre stick, tape measure, weighing scales, container, measuring jug, capacity, weight, length, width, height, depth, equal

Models and images, resources and equipment

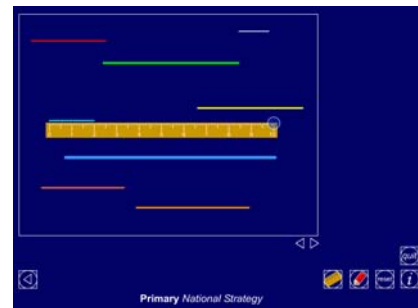
Select equipment that is marked clearly enough for children to read



Measurement ITPs



Measuring scales ITP



Ruler ITP

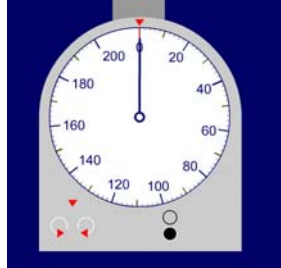
These ITPs provide useful images of a range of appropriate scales. However, they are no substitute for regular practical experience and should always be used in conjunction with practical apparatus.

Teaching tips

- To gain confidence in measurement children need practical experience of:
 - direct comparison (with a focus on the development of the vocabulary of comparison, e.g. 'longer', 'longest', 'heavier than');
 - measurement using uniform physical units which can be handled or seen;
 - measuring using measuring instruments.

- It is important to select equipment that is marked clearly enough for children to read. For instance, ordinary kitchen equipment may have scales that are very difficult for young children to make sense of, and rulers marked in millimetres can lead to confusion.
- When teaching weight use bucket scales to emphasise measure as equivalence, for example place a 20g weight in one side and two 10g weights in the other bucket, place a 20g weight in one bucket and drop playing cards one at a time into the other bucket until the scales are level.
- Look for opportunities for children to apply and use measuring skills across the curriculum, for example in science, design and technology, geography, art, music, and PE.
- Offer children as many experiences as possible to measure accurately for a purpose, for example following a recipe, carrying out an experiment in science.
- Images of scales on ITPs are useful for supporting explanations and as a basis for discussion, but are no substitute for practical experience.

Measuring scales ITP



- Ensure that children have regular experience of placing numbers and reading numbers on partly marked number lines. Show images of partly numbered lines represented vertically, horizontally and on a curve to help children make links between locating and positioning numbers and reading scales.

