Can I read a scale on a thermometer, protractor, ruler, weighing scale and measuring cylinder?

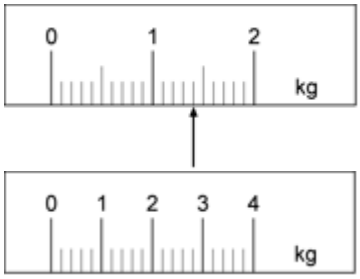
Teaching guidance

Key vocabulary

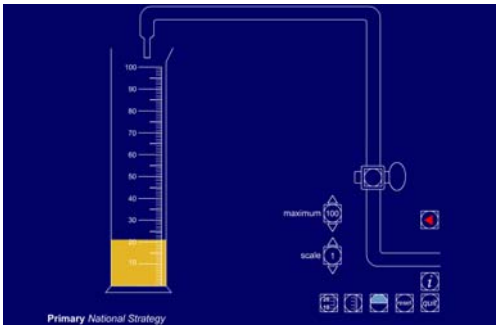
measure, measurement, standard unit, scale, measuring scale, division

Models and images

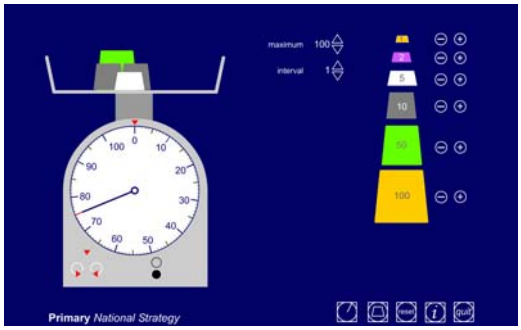
Read the same measurement on different scales, for example, mark the arrow in the correct place on the second scale.



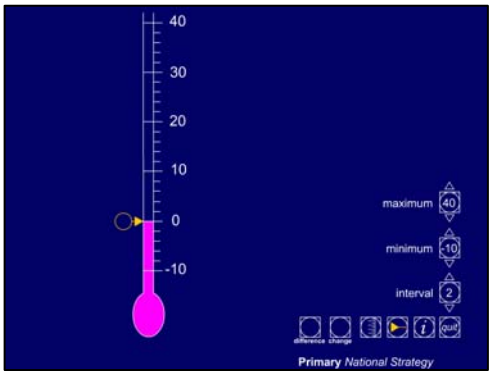
The *Measuring cylinder*, *Measuring scales* and *Thermometer* ITPs allow you to adjust the intervals on the scale.



Measuring cylinder ITP



Measuring scale ITP



Thermometer ITP

Teaching tips

- Provide practical opportunities for children to select and use appropriate units of measure and to consider the degree of accuracy within a given context. For example, measuring glass for a window will require greater accuracy than measuring material for curtains that can be adjusted.
- Explore a variety of types of scales. For example, make a scale, using a length of hose, and present it vertically, horizontally or as a loop for children to read, to help them make the link between horizontal, vertical and curved scales.
- Take opportunities to practise reading scales accurately across the curriculum, for example, within science, design and technology, geography and PE lessons.
- Ask children to collect photographs of scales within their own homes to display. 'Who has the greatest number of examples? Who can find the most unusual example?' Ask children to find out how their parents use scales in their everyday lives.
- Model how to annotate images of scales, to help children interpret readings that lie between numbered divisions.