

# Measuring with Informal Units

Length, capacity and mass with uniform units

## ELABORATION FOCUS

Measuring and comparing objects by length, capacity and mass using uniform informal units, and choosing smaller units when we need to be more accurate.

**LEARNING INTENTION** I can measure with units and compare.

Same unit

No gaps

Count them

Compare

Smaller unit

**1**

### Choose Your Unit

Step 1: pick one unit. Step 2: use the same unit for the whole job.

**2**

### Line Them Up

Step 3: start at the very end.  
Step 4: no gaps and no overlaps.

**3**

### Count and Compare

Step 5: count the units and say the number. Step 6: if it lands between, use a smaller unit.

## MODEL · MEASURING A PENCIL WITH PAPER CLIPS

The pencil is measured with paper clips, then with smaller cubes.

The same pencil, measured two ways



Smaller units give a more accurate measure · same units, no gaps

5 clips is between 5 and 6, so we measure again in cubes and get 11.

**TEACHER MODELLING ROUTINE** I do → We do → You do

## WATCH FOR

Leaving gaps, overlapping units, or mixing two different sized units.

## REMEMBER

Say it to students as: "Same units, no gaps, start at the end."

## MATERIALS

Paper clips, cubes, blocks, cups, spoons, balance scales, string, containers.