

Measuring length with informal units

measure the length of shapes and objects using informal units, recognising that units need to be uniform and used end-to-end

Learning intention

- measure the length of shapes and objects using informal units, recognising that units need to be uniform and used end-to-end

Teach and model

- using 2 different units; for example, pop sticks and pencils, to measure the length of an object such as a desk, and explaining why the number of units used may be different
- comparing the length of 2 objects such as a desk and a bookshelf by laying multiple copies of a unit and counting to say which is longer and how much longer; explaining why...
- measuring the distance between 2 locations using footsteps, comparing the results and explaining why there may be different results; for example, referring to the...

Check understanding

- Explain the main idea in measuring length with informal units using an example.
- Show the idea in a second way: with words, a model, a diagram or symbols.
- Apply the idea to a short unfamiliar situation and justify the result.

Teaching cautions

- Ask the student to explain their choice, not only state an answer.
- Check that key vocabulary is understood in a new example.
- Mix representations so the skill is transferred rather than copied.

Quick lesson sequence

- Connect to prior knowledge and introduce the key vocabulary.
- Model one clear example, then solve a second example together.
- Finish with an independent check and a short student explanation.