

POP! TEACHER RESOURCE



Ruler Relay

Lesson Plan for *Measuring Distance*

Grade 2

Objective

To help students practice using rulers to measure the distance between objects.

Things Needed

- *Measuring Distance* book
- Whiteboard
- Two rulers
- Large, clear area for an active game

Before the Activity

Clear a space in the room for a relay. The starting line for the relay will be the wall opposite the whiteboard. Divide the whiteboard into two halves, labeling one half “Team 1” and the other half “Team 2.” In each half, draw several pairs of circles. Make sure the circles in each pair are a set distance from each other, using the following answer key as a guide:

Team 1	Team 2
5 inches	9 inches
24 inches	3 inches
9 inches	12 inches
15 inches	8 inches
3 inches	5 inches
12 inches	20 inches
20 inches	16 inches
10 inches	24 inches
16 inches	10 inches
8 inches	15 inches



Activity

Read *Measuring Distance* out loud to students. Page 4 says, “Distance is the length of a straight line between two objects.” People can use rulers to measure distance. A ruler is 1 foot, or 12 inches, long. The lines on a ruler mark each inch. To measure the distance between two objects, place the beginning of the ruler at the first object. Bring the end of the ruler toward the second object. Find the closest marking on the ruler. That marking gives the distance.

Sometimes the distance between two objects is longer than a ruler. In that case, people can use the same ruler multiple times to find the distance. First, place the beginning of the ruler at the first object. Bring the end of the ruler toward the second object. Place a finger where the ruler ends. The distance between the first object and the finger is 12 inches. Then, place the beginning of the ruler at the finger. Bring the end of the ruler toward the second object. Find the closest marking on the ruler. That marking gives the distance between the finger and the second object. Add this number to the distance between the first object and the finger. The total is the distance between the two objects.

Students will do a relay race to practice measuring distance. Divide the class into two teams. Have students line up in their teams against the wall opposite the whiteboard. Give a ruler to the first student in each line. The rulers will be the batons. When you say “Go,” the first students from each team should run to the whiteboard, where you will direct them to use the rulers to measure the first distance in their team’s column. When a student thinks he or she has the answer, use the above answer key to check. If a student is correct, the student can run back to the starting line and hand the ruler to the next person on the team. That new student will run to the whiteboard to receive a new distance to measure. If a student is incorrect, coach the student through the process of using the ruler until he or she gets the right answer. The game ends when one team has finished measuring all of its distances.

Evaluation

Could students use the markings on the ruler to find the distance between two objects?

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ math standards, grade 2 (2.MD.A.1).

