

Measurement Scavenger Hunt

Students can sharpen their skills in estimating and visual/spatial reasoning by folding a classroom scavenger hunt.

Directions

1. Prepare a classroom of items students must find in the classroom. Students will hunt in terms of some kind of measurement—area, perimeter or both. Include length, width, height, weight, perimeter, area, and volume. Here are some examples:
 - a book that weighs between 100 and 140 grams
 - a pencil less than 1 foot long
 - a ruler smaller than 12 centimeters
 - a picture whose perimeter is about 20 inches
 - a container whose volume is about 50 cubic inches
 - a coin whose diameter is 4 to 10 centimeters
 - a container circumference is about 1 centimeter
2. Discuss the scavenger hunt with students. For instance, do they think each item is in a room big enough for them to search and describe it fully, with the measurements and their measuring tools, if any, they'd need?
3. Consider the scavenger hunt according to the rules you establish. Consider individual hunter or pairs or groups of hunters a challenge. If time will allow, do a classroom hunt.
4. After the hunt is completed, allow time for students to share how they found answers, and discuss any hints.

Taking It Further

Have students do a similar activity at home with family members. They can use the same checklist or make up their own. Or have students make up their own checklist of items for an outdoor measurement scavenger hunt.

Assessing Skills

- Observe as students work on the measurement scavenger hunt. What measuring skills or techniques do they employ?
- Do students' estimation skills improve as they work?
- What kind of tools of measuring will do students need more practice?

