Measuring fairly with informal units

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A sample from this topic. The complete topic collection contains three different resources and worked solutions.

Show your thinking using words, working or a labelled drawing. Use the explanations and example first.

What you will practise

- Measuring fairly with informal units
- Explain and check an answer with an appropriate representation.

Useful starting skills: Use objects, drawings or a number line to explain a simple idea.

An informal unit is an everyday item used repeatedly to measure, such as a block for length or a cup for capacity. All copies of the unit must match.

Line up units without gaps or overlaps. A smaller unit can give a more precise measurement. Always name the attribute and the unit when you report a result.

Worked example

A ribbon covers 7 equal blocks and a strip covers 4. Compare their lengths.

Check that both use the same blocks with no gaps.

Subtract 4 from 7 to find the difference.

Answer: The ribbon is 3 blocks longer.

Try it yourself

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. A strip is 12 equal cubes long. A second is 9 cubes long. How much longer is the first?

2. A jug holds 7 equal cupfuls. How many cupfuls fill two identical jugs?

Answers and explanations

Check the method as well as the final answer. An alternative correct method is also valid.

1. 3 cubes

The same unit was used, so 12-9=3.

2. 14 cupfuls

Use 7+7 or 2×7.

Curriculum reference: VC2M2M01

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