

## Most and Least, More or Less

### Purpose

Students will make decisions about how to set up a problem and solve it in reasonable ways, justifying their reasoning.

### Materials

*For each group of students:* objects that vary in length, weight, capacity, or temperature

### Activity

#### A. Introducing the Problem

1. Put students in groups of three or four, and give each group three objects of varying length, weight, capacity, or temperature.
2. Explain the following problem to students: "Place the three objects in order of length (or weight, capacity, or temperature), and describe the lengths (or other measurement) using the words longer/shorter and longest/shortest (or other appropriate words)."

#### B. Solving the Problem

1. Direct student groups to discuss the problem, decide how they might solve it (including what comparisons they could make), and decide how they might explain their answer.
2. Listen to student discussions and prompt where necessary with suggestions such as comparing two objects at a time.
3. Prompt groups that have found an answer to develop a clear explanation of how they solved the problem.

#### C. Discussion

1. When most groups have solved the problem, discuss with the whole class how students found their answers.
2. Ask students for detailed explanations of their methods as well as their answers.

EXTENDING  
THE



ACTIVITY

Ask a similar question about the length, weight, capacity, or temperature of four objects.

connecting  
across the  
curriculum



#### English/ Language Arts

Have students practice using the words *longer/shorter*, *longest/shortest*, *lighter/heavier*, *lightest/heaviest*, *warmer/cooler*, *warmest/coolest*, *more/less*, and *most/least* in complete sentences.







Standards Links  
K.1.8, K.5.1

## Questions for Review

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### Basic Concepts and Processes

During the activity, discuss the following questions with your students to gauge their understanding of the Standard Indicators:

-  Show me the longest object. How about the shortest?
  -  What is the heaviest object?
  -  Which object has the greatest capacity? How do you know?
  -  How do you know this is the [*hottest, shortest, heaviest, etc.*] object?
  -  How did you put your objects in order?
  -  Why do you think this is the correct order?
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