

Modelling thousandths with concrete and visual tools

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

One thousandth (0.001) is one whole split into a thousand equal parts; it is the third decimal place, ten times smaller than one hundredth.

→ On a relabelled base-ten set, the smallest single cube stands for 0.001.

→ In 0.207 the digit 2 is in the tenths column, the 0 holds the hundredths column, and the 7 is in the thousandths column.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

BUILD 0.306 WITH BLOCKS

- 1 Label the columns U t h th on the mat.
- 2 Place three small cubes in the th column for the 6 thousandths.
- 3 Place no blocks in the h column and three rods in the t column.

ANSWER KEY

Scaffold: visual check on the page

Q1: 8

Q2: 5 hundredths + 2 thousandths

Q3: 3 tenths + 6 thousandths

Q4: 1 unit + 9 thousandths

Q5: 2 U + 4 t + 5 th

a) **Always** — By definition the thousandths place is the third after the decimal point.

b) **Always** — Ten thousandths equal one hundredth so ten cubes make one rod.

c) **Sometimes** — It depends on the exact decimal whether the th column is used.

d) **Sometimes** — Numbers like 0.008 have nothing in U but 1.009 does use it.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: $8.32 = 8 + 0.3 + 0.02$

S2: $2.52 = 2 + 0.5 + 0.02$