

Reading scales and measuring instruments accurately

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

MEA.MSR.4b

find, interpret and deduce measures experimentally with increasing precision.

MEA.MSR.4a

determine and calculate units of measurement in fractional and/or decimal form to solve practical problems.

INTERACTIVES Measurement Rulers · display

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

To read a scale accurately count the small spaces between two numbered marks and divide the gap by that count to find what each small space is worth.

→ Between 200 g and 300 g there are 5 spaces so each is worth 20 g.

→ A jug between 500 ml and 600 ml with 5 spaces means each space is 20 ml.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

READING A WEIGHING SCALE

- 1 Count the spaces between 200 g and 300 g: there are 5.
- 2 Divide 100 g by 5 to get 20 g per space.
- 3 The needle is on the second space after 200 g so add 40 g.
- 4 The reading is 240 g.

ANSWER KEY

a) 350 g

b) 540 g

c) 2750 g

Q1: 580 ml

Q2: 12.5 cm

Q3: 2250 g

a) Always — This is the exact method shown in the lesson.

b) Always — The space value is found first then multiplied by the position.

c) Never — The space value stays the same across the whole scale.

d) Sometimes — It depends on the required precision for the task.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: 28.4 cm

S2: 14.6 cm

S3: 14.8 cm

S4: 7.6 cm

S5: 14.4 cm