

Reading weighing scales

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

MEA.MSR.3a

compare, estimate and measure length, weight, capacity, area and volume using appropriate instruments and record and communicate appropriately.

MEA.MSR.3b

identify the relationship between equivalent units of measurement, and rename measures using equivalent units.

INTERACTIVES Measurement Rulers · challenge, display

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

To read a weighing scale, first find how much each little mark is worth by counting the gaps between printed numbers, then read where the pointer stops.

→ A dial marked 0, 100, 200, 300 goes up in steps of 100 g.

→ Halfway between 400 g and 500 g is 450 g.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

READING A DIAL STEP BY STEP

- 1 Check the printed numbers, for example 200 g and 300 g.
- 2 Count the gaps between them to find the step size.
- 3 The pointer is one step past 200 g so add the step size to 200 g.

ANSWER KEY

a) 350 g

b) 450 g

c) 1 kg 500 g

Q1: 300 g

Q2: 450 g

Q3: 1,500 g

Q4: 1,100 g

a) Sometimes : True for some kitchen scales; false for a dial that goes up in 50 g or 25 g steps.

b) Always : You must know the step size before you can read the pointer.

c) Always : Half of 100 g is 50 g so add 50 g to 200 g.

d) Never : The same position can mean different weights on dials with different steps.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: 7.8 cm

S2: 7.6 cm

S3: 5.4 cm

S4: 14.4 cm

S5: 12.4 cm