

The litre: the carton's unit

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

MEA.MSR.2

compare, approximate and measure length, weight, capacity and area using appropriate instruments and record using appropriate units of measurement.

INTERACTIVES Drag Sort · challenge, display, explore

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

A litre is the shop unit for liquids. A big milk carton holds one litre and is our one-litre check for sorting other containers.

→ A milk carton labelled 1 L holds about one litre.

→ A little juice box holds less than one litre.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

SORT THE JUICE CARTON

- 1 Look at the juice carton beside the milk carton labelled 1 litre.
- 2 The juice carton is much smaller than the milk carton.
- 3 So the juice carton holds less than one litre.

LESSON ARC

Open with the milk-carton photo on the IWB, label facing out, and pin 1 L as the one-litre check. Model three sorts into the more / about / less buckets, narrating a pour into the carton when the label is missing. Pupils vote hands-up, then take turns dragging kitchen containers on the interactive. A short copybook beat names one more and one less. Class Challenge runs three brisk label-and-sort sets; wrap by asking how the lemonade bottle's 2 L label settled the bucket without pouring.

TEACHING MOVES

1. **Getting Started.** Hold up the milk-carton photo (or a real empty carton) with the 1 L label facing the class before anyone sits fully. Point to the juice carton image and ask more or less — take three hands-up answers, then leave the question open so the sorting work answers it.
2. **Watch and Notice.** Reveal one card at a time. For the milk carton, tap the 1 L and place it in about a litre — that is the check. For the juice box, narrate pouring it into the carton: it barely covers the bottom, so less. For the bucket, the whole carton disappears with room to spare, so more. On the lemonade bottle, freeze and ask what the label tells us before it lands.
3. **Try It Together.** Call one container at a time — mug, washing-up bowl, 1 L milk carton, medicine cup. Hands up for more / about / less before the pupil drags. Rotate four pupils. If the class splits, ask 'what would pouring into the litre carton show?' and re-vote.
4. **Write two containers in your copy.** Leave the name bank on the board. Pupils write one container that holds more than a litre and one that holds less. Walk the row glancing for two clear, different names — no marking, whole-class copybook practice.
5. **Class Challenge.** Keep the board work brisk: pupil drags, class confirms, next card. On any labelled bottle, hold for the L clue before Check. Three short core sets only — do not re-teach each sort.

6. **What Did We Notice?** Ask how the lemonade bottle's label picked a bucket without pouring. Listen for 'it said 2 litres, so more than the milk carton'. Re-voice: the label tells how much is inside in a unit everyone shares. Steer off 'because it looks big' back to fair comparing.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

⚠ Pupils pick the bucket by how tall or wide the container looks — 'the tall bottle must be more than a litre' — instead of capacity or the label.

Freeze the sort. Ask 'if we poured this into the milk carton, would it fill it, overflow, or sit low?' Rebuild the decision from the pour-thought, then check the label if there is one.

⚠ Pupils treat only the exact milk carton as 'about a litre' and refuse near-matches, or they ignore a clear 1 L label and guess from shape.

Point back at the 1 L on the carton: that label is the shared check. Any container whose label says 1 L, or that would fill the carton once, goes in about a litre — shape does not override the label.

⚠ On a 2 L lemonade bottle, pupils read the digits but still sort it as about a litre because 'it's a drinks bottle like the milk'.

Cover the shape with your hand and show only the 2 L print. 'Two litres means two of our milk cartons — so which bucket?' Uncover and let them re-drag.

DIFFERENTIATION

EMERGING

- Start each sort with the two extremes only — bath versus medicine cup — and name the bucket yourself once before they vote.
- Keep the 1 L milk-carton image pinned beside the buckets for the whole Class Challenge so the check stays visible.

DEVELOPING

- After a correct sort, ask 'label or pour-thought — which clue did you use?' before the next card.
- Swap in a bottle labelled 1.5 L and ask which bucket and why, still using the milk carton as the check.

PROFICIENT

- During Class Challenge, after a 2 L sort, ask: name something at home that would sit between the milk carton and that bottle — how do you know?
- On the copybook beat, add a third line: one container you would need the label for because looking is not enough.

✂ **Cross-curricular:** Link to SPHE food shopping — read a real juice or milk label at home and say more, about, or less than the class carton.

ANSWER KEY

Q1: less than 1 litre

Q2: more than 1 litre

Q3: less than 1 litre

Q4: more than 1 litre

Q5: about 1 litre

Q6: less than 1 litre

a) Always : The label 1 L means the carton is our one-litre check.

b) Always : A bath is far bigger than a milk carton so it holds more.

c) Sometimes : Some small buckets are near one litre but many hold far more.

d) Never : A mug is smaller than the milk carton so it holds less.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: a metre stick

S2: a metre stick

S3: a metre stick

S4: a weighing scales