

Measuring Turnips



Overview

The teacher will read *The Turnip* by Jan Brett. The book is about a Badger family and friends pulling up an enormous turnip. The students will place a piece of yarn (or a measuring tape) around a few average size turnips. They will measure the length of the yarn using inches. How long do you think the length of the yarn would be to go around the turnip in the book?

Georgia Standards

- MGSE2.MD.1 Measure the length of an object by selecting and using appropriate tools such as rulers, yardsticks, meter sticks, and measuring tapes.
- MGSE2.MD.4 Measure to determine how much longer one object is than another, expressing the length difference in terms of a standard length unit.

Objectives

- Students will be able to select appropriate measurement tools for measurement, including rulers, yardsticks, and measuring tapes.
- Students will be able to accurately measure lengths in inches and feet.
- Students will be able to determine how much longer one length is than another.

Materials

- [The Turnip by Jan Brett](#)
- Yarn
- Tape to hold yarn in place on turnip
- Rulers, Yardsticks, Measuring Tape (flexible, not metal)
- Several turnips of different sizes

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Lesson Plan

Engage:

- Teacher will read *The Turnip* to students.

Explore:

- The teacher will tell the students that turnips come in different sizes. How large do they think the turnip was that Badger Girl found.
- The students will hold turnips of different sizes. Are these as big as the turnip in the book?

Explain:

- Tell your students that a unit is a specific length of measurement and show the students an example of a one inch unit.
- Model how you can measure the size of a turnip by placing a piece of yarn around the turnip. Then measure the length of the yarn. Emphasize the importance of aligning the measurement tool properly and ensuring that the length being measured is not in the middle of the measuring tool.
- Compare the lengths of the yarn to determine which turnip is the largest or the smallest.
- Take an uncut piece of yarn and place it in a large circle shape on the floor. Make it as large as the students say the turnip in the book was. Cut the yarn when the students agree on the size of the turnip. How would we measure this long string? Would we use a 12 inch ruler or a yardstick?

Extend:

- Use other sphere-shaped objects such as a basketball or a beachball to measure things that are larger than the average turnip.
- Use another unit of measurement such as centimeters and meters to measure the turnips/yarn.

Evaluate:

- Was the student able to select appropriate measurement tools for measurement?
- Was the student able to accurately measure lengths in inches and feet?
- Was the student able to determine how much longer one length is than another?

Lesson created by Diana Cole for Georgia Organics