

Math Center Activities

Have students record their findings in response to the following activities in their inquiry notebooks.

- Give the students each a gummy worm to measure. Measure the gummy worms first with kidney beans, Cheerios, or bear counters (non-standard measurements) to show the importance of a standard measurement. Possible questions that the students could answer in their inquiry notebooks:
 - - Did everyone get the same measurement for their gummy worm? Why? Why not?
 - How many kidney beans did it take to equal the length of the gummy worm? How many Cheerios did it take to measure the length of the gummy worm? How many bear counters did it take to measure the length of the gummy worm?
 - Would you want to measure the length of the classroom with these “tools”? Why? Why not?
- Provide the students with one-inch square math manipulatives and/or centimeter cubes to measure the worms. Compare the differences in these standard measurements.
- Finally, give the students a ruler with the metric system on one side and inches on the other. The students can use the ruler to measure the gummy worms. After they are finished with their measurements, they can eat the gummy worms.
 - Possible discussion questions: Why do you think it is important to have inches and/or centimeters for measurement? Why? Why not? How many centimeters does it take to equal one inch?