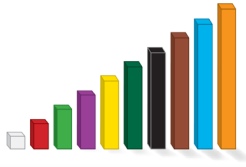


Cuisenaire® Rods



Cuisenaire Rods are a collection of rectangular rods of 10 colors, and each color is a different length. Because the lengths are proportional, Cuisenaire Rods can be used to develop a wide variety of mathematical skills at many different levels of complexity. They can be used for basic operations, fractions, decimals, and algebra.

Build a Boat

Overview: In this activity, your child designs a boat with Cuisenaire Rods and estimates how many white Cuisenaire Rods it takes to cover their boat.

Materials: Cuisenaire Rods, paper, pencil

- ❖ On the paper, have your child arrange 5-10 Cuisenaire Rods so they look like a boat. They can use any rods you want, except the white ones.
- ❖ With a pencil, have your child carefully trace the boat on the paper.
- ❖ Remove the rods from the drawing.
- ❖ Have your child estimate (make a smart guess) how many white rods it takes to cover the drawing of your boat.
- ❖ Have your child cover the drawing with white rods and then count them. Was the estimate right?
- ❖ Repeat again with other shapes.

Copy and Repeat

Overview: In this activity, your child creates patterns and converts those patterns to number sentences to estimate how many rods they need to repeat the pattern.

Materials: Cuisenaire Rods, paper, pencil

- ❖ Have your child use Cuisenaire Rods to create 1 of the patterns.
- ❖ Each pattern is repeated twice. The first pattern is green, red, green, red, repeat.
- ❖ If doing that pattern once, as shown, requires 2 reds and 2 greens, and doing it twice (as shown) requires 4 reds and 4 greens, how many rods of each color would you need to repeat 5 times? The number sentence might be $(2r + 2g) + (2r + 2g) + (2r + 2g) + (2r + 2g) + (2r + 2g) = 10r + 10g$
- ❖ Have your child build the pattern so it repeats 10 times. Was the estimate correct?
- ❖ Have your child do this again with the other pattern.
- ❖ For extra fun:
 - On a paper, design a pattern with at least 3 repeats.
 - Trace it in onto the paper.
 - Remove the Cuisenaire Rods and give it to a friend. See if they can figure out how you made your pattern.





