

<p><b>Make a stick</b></p>	<p><b>Skill practised:</b></p>
<p><i>Children find a collection of items which in total measure exactly one metre in length.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gaining a sense of the length of one metre</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conjecture:</b> <i>It is possible to find a group of items whose combined length is one metre.</i></p>	
<p><b>What to do:</b>  <i>Children work in pairs on the carpet.</i></p> <p><i>Each pair working on this investigation need a metre stick, sheets of paper one metre long and access to items with length less than one metre.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give the children a metre stick, and remind them that this is one metre long. Ask them to find items from around the classroom which are shorter than one metre and place them on the carpet.</li> <li>2. Ask children to work in pairs to find a group of items such that when they place them end to end alongside the metre stick, they measure one metre in total!</li> <li>3. Once they have done this, ask them to place their objects in a line along the paper and draw round them then add a few details so that they are recognisable, as a record.</li> <li>4. Repeat with another group of items.</li> </ol> <p>You've nearly made your metre stick of things. Which thing on the carpet do you think might fill the space left? Will this pencil case be too long for the gap, too short or just right?</p> <p>After children have carried out the task, ask them to turn their backs on their metre sticks and use their hands to show an estimate of the length of a metre above the ground. How close were they?</p> <p><b>CHALLENGE:</b> Children find a group of items which are half a metre in length.</p>	
<p><b>Aim:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– To estimate which items will fill gaps, using trial and improvement</li> </ul>	<p><b>Minimum number of calculations expected</b></p> <p>N/A</p>

## Make a stick

1. Find items from around the classroom which are shorter than one metre. Place them on the carpet.
2. With your partner, find a group of items that when they are placed end to end, along the metre stick measure one metre in total!
3. Place your objects in a long line along the paper and draw round them. Add a few details so that you know the object, as a record.
4. Try again with another group of items.

You've nearly made your metre stick of things.  
Which thing on the carpet do you think might fill the space left?

Turn your back on the metre stick.  
Can you hold your hand above the floor to show an estimate of a metre? Ask someone to check. How close were you?

### Challenge

Find a group of items which are half a metre in length.