



BREWING UP SOME STEAM

PRETZEL STICK TRICKS

What is an estimate? It's a rough guess about the value, amount, or size of an object. How good are you at estimating? Test your skills:

Materials

You Will Need:

- a generous serving of pretzel sticks
- recording sheet

DIRECTIONS

1) What if you used a pretzel stick as a measuring stick?

- Find some everyday objects or use the suggestions on the recording sheet to estimate how many pretzel sticks high, long, or wide they are!
- Then measure with your pretzels to check your estimating skills.

2) What other items can you use as measuring tools besides pretzel sticks? What other items besides the ones on the sheet can you measure?



Take this further:

Try these ideas!

Try using a different item to estimate and measure with. Some ideas are:
-toothpicks -LEGOs or other building blocks
-croutons -toy cars

What if you wanted to measure the distance around a 3-dimensional, round object such as an apple, but your tool won't "bend"?

Try this:

Get a piece of yarn or string and wrap it around the object you want to measure. Don't overlap the end of the string and pinch off or cut where the string meets. Lay it down on a flat surface and measure the length of the pinched/cut piece!

Parent Connection:

Why teach estimating and measuring with non-standard units like pretzel sticks? This activity starts to give kids benchmarks for measuring and strengthens their ability to make logical estimations. Using non-standard units is also a non-threatening way to get kids familiar with how to measure and lays the groundwork for understanding why standard units are necessary.

