

Cuisenaire® Rods

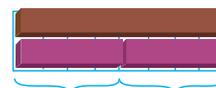


Fraction Pairs

Overview: In this activity, students discover the fractions in the Cuisenaire Rods and record the fraction equivalencies.

Materials: Cuisenaire Rods, paper, pencil

- On a piece of paper, have students write $\frac{1}{2}$.
- Ask students to find the pair of Cuisenaire Rods that can be used to show that fraction. For example, “The purple rod is $\frac{1}{2}$ of the brown rod.”
- Have students record all the pairs for $\frac{1}{2}$ on the paper.
- Ask students to try finding the Cuisenaire Rod pairs that show $\frac{1}{3}$.
- Repeat for all these fractions:
 $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{1}{6}$ $\frac{1}{7}$ $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{9}$ $\frac{1}{10}$
- Ask students which fraction has the most pairs and which Cuisenaire Rod is used for the most fractions.



Making Squares Grow

Overview: In this activity, students find, record, and extend number patterns. They study the set of square numbers and use patterns to make predictions.

Materials: Cuisenaire Rods

- Ask students to use 3 yellow Cuisenaire Rods to make a rectangle.
- Have students cover the rectangle with the white rods to find its dimensions.
- Since the white Cuisenaire Rod is a centimeter, the dimensions of the rectangle are 3 x 5 centimeters and it will take 15 rods to cover it.
- Ask students to add more Cuisenaire Rods to the rectangle so that its dimensions become 4 x 6 centimeters.
- Use different Cuisenaire Rods to make more rectangles.
- Ask students to find the dimensions of the rectangles with the white Cuisenaire Rods.

