

Broken Ruler



Approach: One to one *Level:* Year 4 and year 8
Focus: Measuring length.
Resources: “Broken” ruler, 40cm length of ribbon, piece of coloured card, recording book.

Questions/instructions:

Give student “broken” ruler.

In this activity you will be measuring two different things — a piece of cardboard and a piece of ribbon. The piece of ruler has been broken, but never mind. It can still be used for measuring.

Give student piece of cardboard.

1. How many centimetres wide is the cardboard?

| | % responses | |
|-------------|-------------|----|
| | y4 | y8 |
| 11.5 – 12.5 | 30 | 64 |

Give student a piece of ribbon.

2. How many centimetres long is the piece of ribbon?

| | | |
|----------------|----|----|
| 40 | 23 | 55 |
| 35–39 or 41–45 | 32 | 27 |

Commentary

About 30 percent more year 8 than year 4 students managed to measure accurately with the “broken” ruler.