

Task:



Mowers

Approach: One to one

Year: 4 & 8

Focus: Evaluating strategies, outcomes and consequences

Resources: Video recording on laptop computer, 2 pictures

Questions / instructions:

This activity uses the computer.

To begin this activity you'll watch a video of someone mowing their lawn with two different mowers – a push mower and a motor mower. As you watch the video think about what is different about each mower.

Click the **Mowers** button. The video will start. [No voice over; audio of mowers only]



Hand out pictures of motor mower and push mower.



- | | % responses | |
|--|-------------|----|
| | y4 | y8 |
| 1. How does the motor mower cut the grass? | | |
| motor turns, makes blades turn | 32 | 52 |
| blade swings parallel to grass (around vertical axis) | 3 | 7 |
| sharp edges of blade hit grass and cut it off | 4 | 6 |
| 2. How does the push mower cut the grass? | | |
| person pushing mower makes wheel turn and blades spin | 36 | 60 |
| blades roll/spin/move around horizontal axis | 5 | 11 |
| grass is cut by scissor action between blade and cutting bar | 1 | 0 |

Point to the picture of push mower.

Look at the picture of the push mower.

- | | | |
|---|----|----|
| 3. What are two or more things that are good about the push mower? | | |
| doesn't need fuel, cheaper to run | 27 | 50 |
| no air pollution | 1 | 11 |
| provides more exercise for operator | 6 | 6 |
| less noisy | 23 | 30 |
| cuts more evenly, shorter, better, finer cut | 2 | 3 |
| smaller and lighter | 17 | 26 |

4. What are two or more things that are **not so good** about the push mower?

hard work for operator
slower to cut same area
not suitable for long grass,
much less adjustable

Point to the picture of motor mower.

Look at the picture of the motor mower.

5. What are two or more things that are **good** about the motor mower?

easier to push, does large area faster
adjustable to cut long grass

6. What are two or more things that are **not so good** about the motor mower?

noisy
causes air pollution
hard to start
needs fuel, more expensive to run
more dangerous
larger and heavier

		% responses	
		y4	y8
Total score:		10–23	1
		8–9	3
		6–7	16
		4–5	31
		2–3	31
		0–1	18

Commentary:

Most students at both levels did not explain the cutting actions of either type of mower, and only 20 percent pointed out the dangers of motor mowers. Almost 40 percent more year 8 than year 4 students had a total score exceeding five.