

Plan a fair comparison

Suggested: Years 3-5 | Pupil page

Plan a comparison by choosing what to change, keep the same and measure.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Plan only: which paper-bridge design holds more counters? Your teacher decides whether and how any practical test takes place.

Compare two folds made from the same type and size of paper. Think about the gap, supports, counter type and where counters are placed.

My prediction and reason

The one feature I will change

Things I will keep the same

What I will measure and the stopping rule

How I will repeat and record the comparison

What the result could tell me - and what it could not

Plan a fair comparison | Teacher notes

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Purpose and use

Plan a comparison by choosing what to change, keep the same and measure.

Teaching notes

Use the planning sheet before any teacher-approved practical activity. Agree what counts as holding a counter and when to stop.

Discuss a repeat trial and an unexpected result. Changing one planned feature helps interpretation here; it is not a rule that every scientific enquiry must use this design.

Answers / suggested responses

Change: the fold/design. Possible controls: paper type and size, support gap and height, counter type, placement and stopping rule.

Measure: number of counters held before the agreed stopping point. A prediction can be wrong; the explanation should connect the result to the tested designs.

Print and adapt

Print page 1 for the activity and keep this teacher page. Use A4 paper at Actual size. Suggested ranges are starting points, not curriculum-alignment claims.

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