

**Better Mathematics Through Literacy**  
**Spring Quarter Follow-up Session**  
**Measurement Station III – Which Takes Longer?**

Materials Needed:

- Uni-fix of snap cubes (about 15 for each group)
- Pencils and Paper
- Sand timer (hour glass) *optional*
- Tennis Ball and String *optional*
- Stopwatch
- Data recording sheet

In this activity students will work in pairs or in a small group. The pairs or groups will look at the list of activities (you can use these or make up actions of your own) and think about which activity will take the longest time to complete.

**Possible activities:**

- **Stacking 10 blocks on at a time and then removing them one at a time**
- **Printing your name**
- **Walking backward around the table twice**
- **Doing 10 jumping jacks**
- **Skip-Counting to 100 by 5's**
- **Making a bar of 15 Uni-fix (or snap) cubes**
- **Copying a simple drawing (like a house with a door and two windows)**

Each student in the group will select one of the activities to do while the remainder of the group keeps time with the stopwatch. Keep a record of how long it takes each student to complete the activity he or she has selected, and then compare the results within the group. After all groups have completed the task, compare the time for the activities between groups.

Expect each student to share the rationale for the choices they make and when they share the results with the whole class.

*Note: Alternative ways to measure time such as the hourglass, the sand timer, and the tennis ball pendulum can be interesting ways to get students to think about measuring time! If using the tennis ball pendulum, have students experiment with varying lengths of string and compare results as well.*