



Metric Measuring in the Garden

(Developed by Amos Alan Lans with Groundwork Somerville based on TERC Investigations : From Paces to Feet Grades 3 and 4 ISBN 0-201-37284-8 (metric measuring scavenger hunt))

Students create their own metric measuring sticks. They begin by cutting out strips of one-centimeter graph paper, and paste them together in order to equal 100 centimeters or one meter (100 one centimeter squares taped in a long line). These strips are then pasted onto a long piece of sturdy cardboard. Once the measuring sticks are complete, the garden explorers are challenged to find and measure the tallest and widest plants and objects of different heights in different areas of the garden. This activity can also be used in the Spring when planting to make sure plants are spaced properly and calculate how many plants can fit into a certain sized planter.

METRIC SCAVENGER HUNT

Using your Meter Stick, Find These Treasures:

1. Find and draw a plant part which is 1 cm long _____
2. What plant is about 20 cm high? _____
3. Can you find an object that is about 50 cm long or high? What is it?

4. Name 3 plants or other garden objects which measure about 1 meter (100 cm) long?

How *high* is the Tallest Tomato Plant in the Garden? _____

How *wide* is the Widest Leaf in the Garden? _____

How *long* is the Longest Bean in the Garden? _____

Which plant is taller, the corn plants or the bean plants?

The tallest corn plant is _____

The tallest bean plant is _____

Hidden Treasure: Where are the Sunflowers???

Once you've found the sunflowers, measure one, and write down how tall it is here: _____

What is the Tallest Plant growing in a raised bed?

It's a _____

Make an Estimate for how tall it is: _____

Now, measure that tall plant's actual height! It's _____ tall.