

On Balance

PreK

Materials: A scale and three objects of different weights (maybe an apple, pear, and orange), paper, and pencil.

Discussion on the rug: Teacher shows a balance scale. “**What do we use this object for?**” Students volunteer ideas. If students don’t know, then the teacher puts two different objects on the scale and asks the question, “**What do you think it tells us now?**” Students respond with ideas. The teacher asks, “**Okay, which object is heavier?**” Students respond. The teacher asks, “**How do we know? Which one weighs the most? Which one weighs the least?**”

In small groups: Each student pair has a scale and three different objects—maybe a fruit, a piece of paper, and a pencil. The teacher explains that they can use the scale to find the answer to these questions:

- Which object weighs the most?
- Which object weighs the least?
- What do we know about the third object (fruit)?
- Put the objects in order from heaviest to lightest.

At the end of the investigation, have students either discuss or dictate a response to this summary question: How did you figure out which object (fruit) weighed the most? Tell me how you figured it out and how you know for sure.



