

Just a Second

Activity

Students are asked to make two lists. The first is a list of all the things they could measure using just seconds. For example, the time it takes to run 100 metres, the time it takes to tie a shoe, the time it takes a paper airplane to reach the ground, etc. The second list should include things that they wouldn't measure using just seconds. These could be time related activities or other things that could be measured using a different type of measurement. For example, how long it takes to fly from New York to London, how long it takes for a plant to grow, how long it takes to walk to school. You could also include non-time related ideas like how heavy your cat is, how long your foot is, etc.

To support

- ① What does 'just a second' mean to students? How does it connect to their understanding of time? Share ideas.
- ② Count to 10 (or 30) as a class. What are some things students think they could do while they are counting? Brainstorm ideas together and then give students time to think independently.

To challenge

- ① Students could include an estimation for their ideas on both lists.
 - writing your name = 15 seconds
 - walking to school = 12 minutes
 - length of my cat = 35 centimetres
- ② What other units of time do students know? How are they connected to each other?



Just a Second

What are some things you could measure using just seconds?
What are some things you wouldn't measure using just seconds?
Make two lists!



Write an estimated measurement for each of your ideas!

Possible Solutions

Could be measured in just seconds...

1. Writing my name (15 seconds)
2. Putting on socks (8 seconds)
3. Running up stairs (20 seconds)
4. 100 metre sprint (30 seconds)
5. Blinking (1 second)
6. Doing 10 push ups (12 seconds)

Takes more than just a second...

1. Brushing my teeth (minutes)
2. Hiking Mount Everest (days)
3. Flying to Rome (hours)
4. Life of a tree (years)
5. Length of a song (minutes)
6. Reading a book (hours/days)