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Make your own spacing sticks



Royal Horticultural Society



growit

Activities

Why?

- Plants need space to grow so that they can get the water, light and nutrients they need to flourish. They don't grow well if cramped.
- Different crops need different amounts of space. For example peas should be 5cm apart in their rows, potatoes 30 –40cm.
- Spacing sticks are used to indicate where seeds / plants should be spaced in a row. With fine seed, such as lettuce, it is difficult to sow thinly, but the spacing sticks can be used to thin seedlings to give them more space.
- Spacing sticks help apply numeracy skills, such as counting and multiples.

How?

Materials

- Wood lengths– 1 m long, 5 -10 cm wide, 1–2 cm depth. Saw (if required)
- Sand paper, tape measure, ruler
- Permanent marker pens (black) and colour pens/ paints for decoration

Make It!

- 1 If not already in 1 m lengths, saw wood to sizes given above
- 2 Use the sand paper to smooth the edges of the sticks
- 3 Use both sides of spacing sticks, using different spacing on either side (diagrams on next sheet)

Recommended spacings to use

Stick 1

Mark out every 5 cm with a tape measure and, using permanent pen, clearly mark numbers for pupils, ie 5,10,15 etc... On reverse, every 10 cm.

Stick 2

Every 15 cm (can also be used for multiples of 30 cm / 45 cm).

On reverse, every 20cm (can also be used for multiples of 40 cm).

Make as many sticks as possible to meet the needs of gardening in groups, as it is recommended that there is one between two pupils.

Sticks can be decorated with pictures of vegetables and fruit, but should not distract from numerals. Sticks can be given a protective coat of varnish.

Store in shed to protect from elements.

Note: Teachers may decide that these should be prepared in advance for pupils to use. Alternatively initial preparation of sticks could be undertaken and pupils could add numbers or just decorate depending on age group.

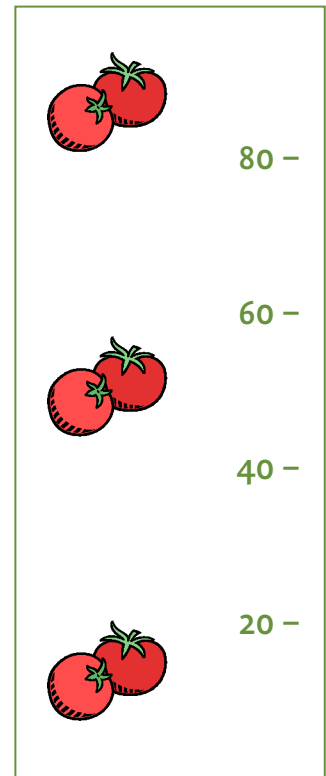
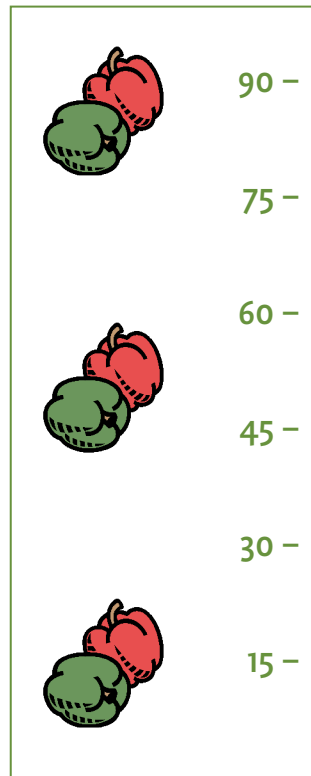
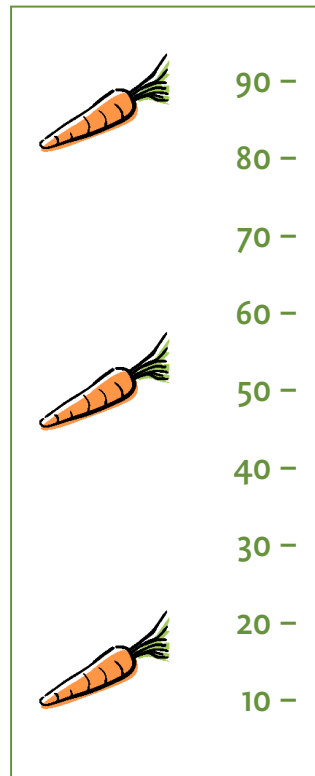
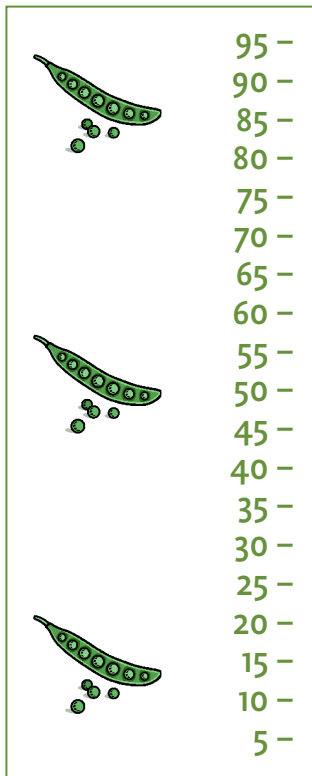
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Stick 1 Every 5 cm

(Reverse) Every 10 cm

Stick 2: Every 15 cm

(Reverse) Every 20 cm



Curriculum links

Key Stage 1

Mathematics Ma 2: Using & applying number. Numbers and the number system.

Ma 3: Using and applying shape, space and measures. Understanding measures

Science: SC2: Green plants.

Design & Technology: Working with tools, equipment, materials to make quality products.

Key Stage 2

Mathematics Ma 2: Using & applying number. Counting. Number patterns and sequences.

Ma 3: Using and applying shape, space & measures. Understanding measures.

Science: SC2: Green plants.

Design & Technology: Working with tools, equipment, materials to make quality products.