

Greedy Cat takes the shorter path

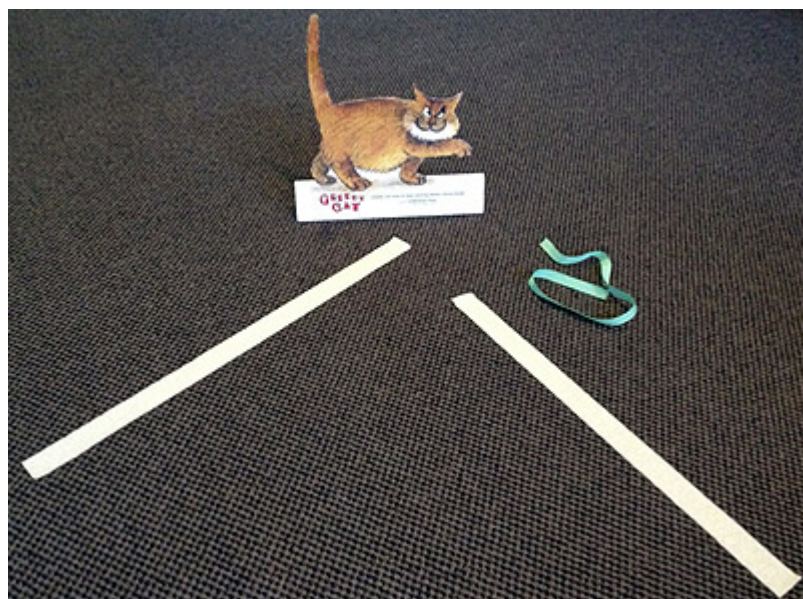
Annotation

Lily shows that she can use an indirect measure. She is able to determine that one path is the shorter path by using a ribbon as an intermediary measure of two paths that cannot be compared directly. Lily finds that her ribbon is longer than path A but that it doesn't reach the end of path B. She uses this information to conclude that path A is shorter.

Problem: Greedy Cat takes the shorter path

The teacher asks the student to help Greedy Cat find the shorter path to the fridge. The student has to choose between two masking-tape paths that run in different directions. The teacher gives the student a ribbon that is longer than the shorter path and shorter than the longer path to help the student choose and asks:

Which of these two paths to the fridge is shorter?



Student Response

Lily: "It is that one."

Lily uses visual comparison to identify the shorter path.

Teacher: "Can you use the ribbon to measure the paths and show me that you are right?"

Lily carefully lines up the ribbon on the longer path and then repeats the process on the shorter path.

Lily: "This one is shorter because a bit of the ribbon goes onto the carpet at the end of the path."