

# Oranges and teddy bears

---

## Annotation

Hayden understands that a set of balance scales must be balanced in order for him to judge the weight of an object accurately. He is able to count the number of measuring units he has used to balance the scales and use this information when he compares two objects to determine which is heavier.

## Problem: Oranges and teddy bears

The teacher shows the student a set of balance scales, some small plastic teddy bears and two oranges and asks the student to estimate which orange is heavier by picking them up. Then the teacher asks:

*Can you check if you made the correct choice by finding out how many teddy bears each orange weighs?*



## Student Response

Hayden places the heavier orange in one pan and gradually adds teddy bears to the other pan, counting each one as he places it. As the arm of the balance moves to a level position, he stands back and carefully observes the placement of the last teddy bear.

He repeats this process with the other orange.

Hayden: The heavier one is 15, and the lighter one is 10.