# Manipulatives Alternatives

## Balance Scale

*For comparing the weight or mass of two objects and reading a scale*

Use a coat hanger and 2 equal-sized berry baskets. Attach string to the baskets and hang them from the ends of the hanger. Hang the homemade balance scale from a doorknob or chalkboard tray.

A seesaw also provides a representation of how a balance scale works by weighing different objects on the ends of it.

## Money Kit

*For recognition of and identifying the value of coins and bills*

For use on an overhead projector, prepare on transparencies a color copy of the Money Kit from the Student Manipulatives Packet. Cut out the coins and bills.

## Fraction Kit

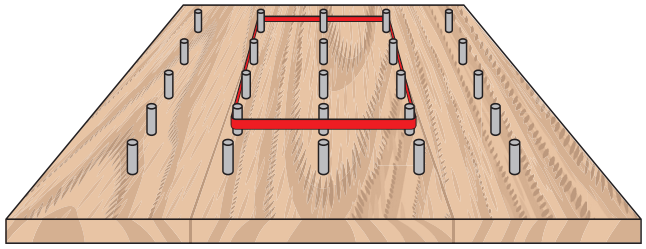
*For relating part to whole and comparing fractions of a shape*

For use on an overhead projector, prepare on transparencies a color copy of the Fraction Kit from the Student Manipulatives Packet. Cut out the 1 whole and the fraction pieces.

## Geoboard

*For shape recognition, making geometric shapes, and making fractions of a shape*

Tap nails into a 7" × 7" board in a 5 × 5 array. Place the nails about $1\frac{1}{2}$" apart. Use colorful rubber bands to make shapes on the geoboard.

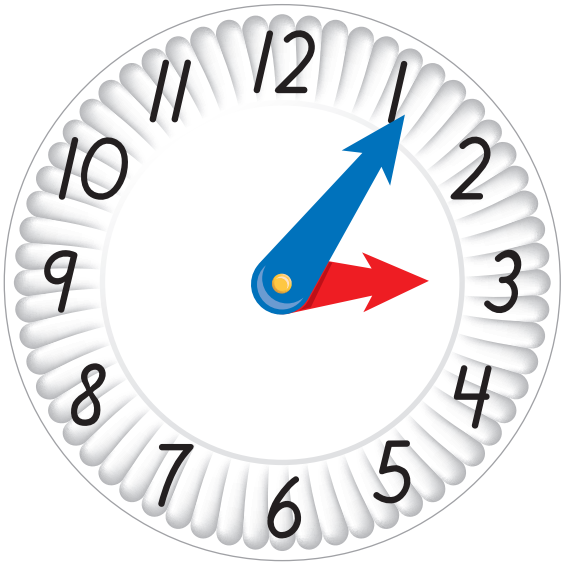


## Judy Clock

*For telling time and setting the correct time*

Use Chart 4, *Clock*, from the Teacher's Visual Packet or prepare a copy of the chart from the Teacher's Toolkit CD.

Draw a clock face on a large paper plate. Cut out an hour hand and a minute hand from poster board. Attach the hands to the center of the plate with a brass fastener.

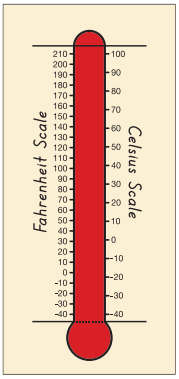



## Thermometer

*For setting and reading a thermometer*

For use on an overhead projector, prepare on a transparency a copy of the Thermometer from the Student Manipulatives Packet. Make a color copy of the Red Strip on a transparency and cut it out.

On poster board draw an outline of a thermometer. Label the left side *Fahrenheit Scale* and the right side *Celsius Scale*. Mark the degrees on both sides of the thermometer. Use red construction paper to make the "red strip." Cut a slit at the bottom of the thermometer to allow the red strip to slide through the thermometer, depicting the temperature.



## Unifix Cubes

*For addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division*

Use small objects such as buttons, craft sticks, small candy pieces, cereal pieces, or dried beans.

*For representing tens and ones in 2-digit numbers*

Use pop beads or similar items. Join 10 together to use as 1 ten.

Use 1 dime to represent 1 ten. Use 1 penny to represent 1 one.

Make a ten-bean stick to use as 1 ten. Use loose beans as ones.