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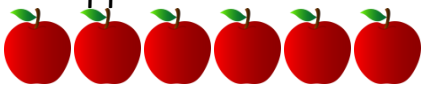
Glossary of Math Terminology

Maths vocabulary	Definition	Example
Numbers and place value		
number	Numbers describe quantities of values. There are many types of numbers. Numerals, words and symbols can be used to represent numbers.	**Six** apples  **six** apples **6** 5 + 1 = 6
numeral	A symbol used to represent a number.	**4** is the numeral that represents the number 4. **9** is the numeral that represents the number 9.
digit	Numerals 0-9 are called digits. They are used to make other numbers.	**5** The number 5 has one digit. **17** The number 17 is a two-digit number.
value	Value shows the amount or numerical worth.	The monetry worth of an item or amoun

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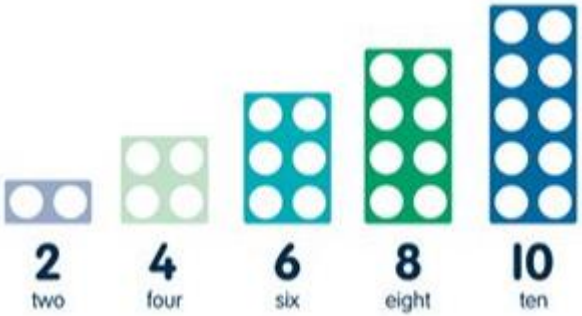
quantity	Quantity shows how much or how many. It shows an amount, number, total, sum, size or extent.	6 Australian animals
amount	Amount shows the quantity, number of, total, sum, size or extent.	5 x 5 x 5 x 5 = 625
pair	A pair is a set of two things treated as a unit.	
even number	Even numbers are a number divisible by two. All even numbers finish with one of these digits: 0,2, 4, 6 or 8.	 2 two, 4 four, 6 six, 8 eight, 10 ten

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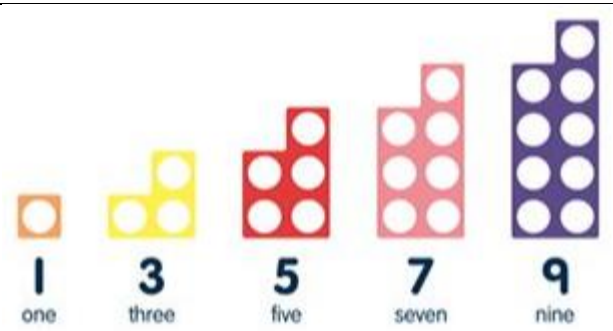
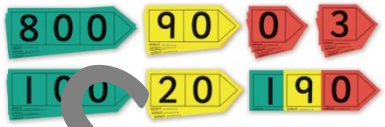
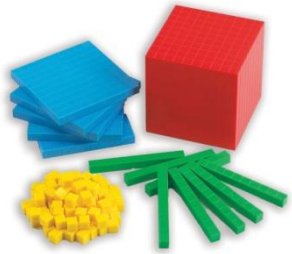
odd number	Odd numbers cannot be equally divided by two. All odd numbers finish with one of these digits: 1, 3, 5, 7 or 9.	
place value	Place value shows the value of a digit depending on its place in a number. In the decimal system, each place is 10x bigger than the place to its right. A decimal point is used to separate whole numbers from decimal fractions.	  
comparison	Comparison is the process of considering the similarities or differences between two objects or values.	
More	The larger value or amount.	 6 pears are more than 3 pears

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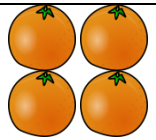
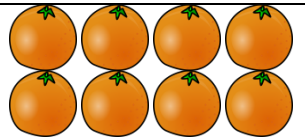
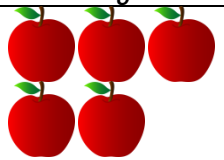
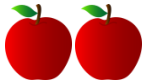
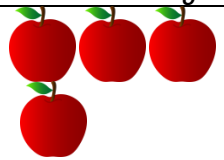
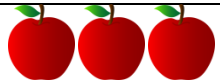
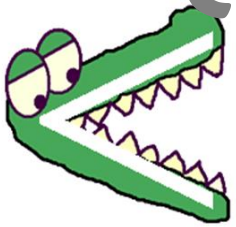
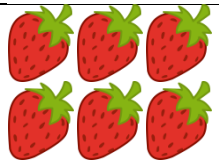
Less	Not as many as another value or amount.	 4 oranges are less than  8 oranges
Equal to	Has the same amount or value.	    5 + 2 is equal to 4 + 3
More than or greater than	A value or amount that is larger than another value or amount. The more than symbol > shows the relationship between two values or amounts.	6 is more than 3 3 + 5 > 4 + 2
Less than	A value or amount that is smaller than another value or amount. The less than symbol < shows the relationship between two values or amounts.	 23 is less than 32 12 + 5 < 9 +11
Fewer	A smaller number than another number.	 6 strawberries are four fewer than 10 strawberries

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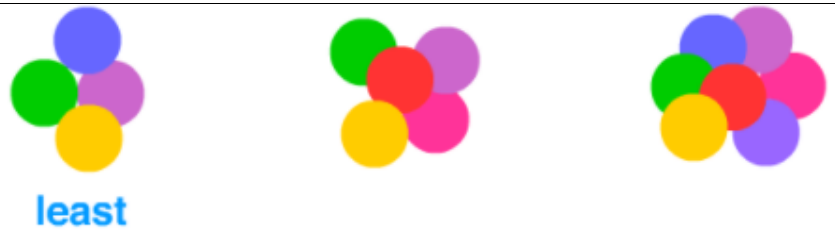
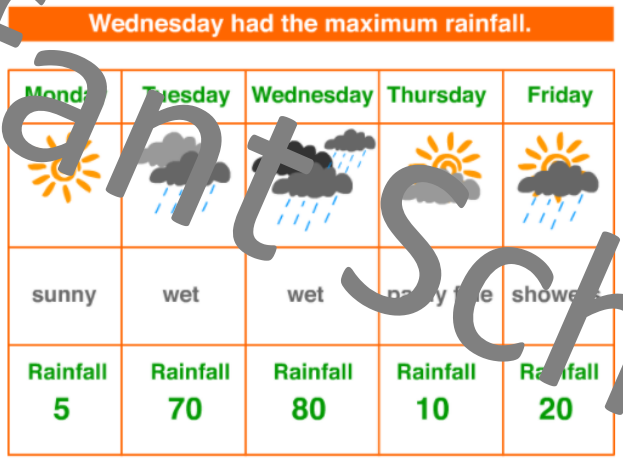
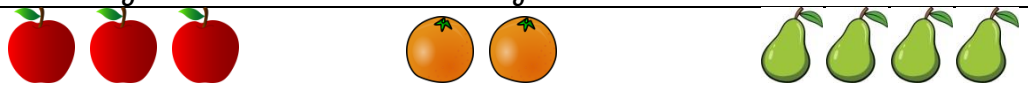
most	The largest value or amount.	
least	The smallest value or amount.	
maximum	Maximum means most. It is the highest or greatest amount or value.	 Wednesday had the maximum rainfall. Monday had the minimum rainfall.
minimum	Minimum means least. It is the lowest or smallest amount or value.	
altogether	The total of everything.	 There are 10 fruits altogether.

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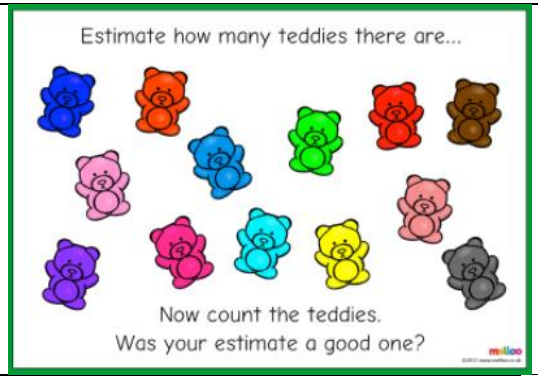
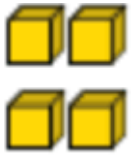
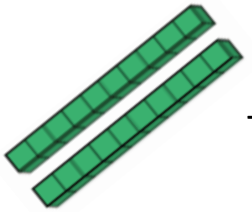
estimate	To make an approximate calculation. Can often be based on rounding.	
compare	To describe the similarities and differences between pictures or amounts.	28 < 40 28 is less than 40. 45 > 23 45 is greater than 23. 54 < 76 54 is less than 76. 67 > 50 67 is greater than 50.
one	Is a cardinal number. It is the next number after 0.	 Four ones = 4
ten	Is a cardinal number. It is the next number after 9. It is also the base number of our decimal system.	 Two tens = 20

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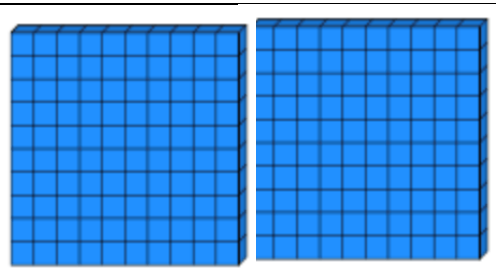
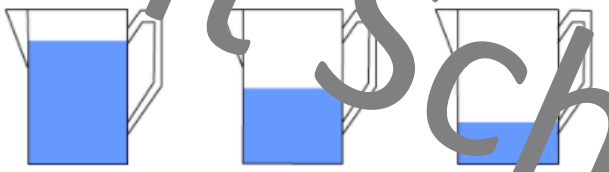
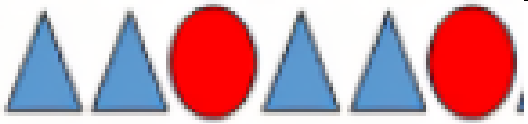
hundred	Is a cardinal number. It is the next number after 99.	 3 hundreds = 300
bigger	An amount that is larger or more than than another amount.	3 x 4 is bigger than 3x 2
smaller	An amount that is smaller or less than another amount.	5 x 3 is smaller than 4 x 10
equal	Equal is having the same amount or value.	4 + 4 is equal to 5 + 3
order	Order is an arrangement according to size, amount or value. • arrangement according to size, amount or value.	 1 2 3 4 5
pattern	A pattern is a repeated design or recurring sequence. It is an ordered set of numbers, shapes or other mathematical objects arranged according to a rule.	 + 2 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, ...

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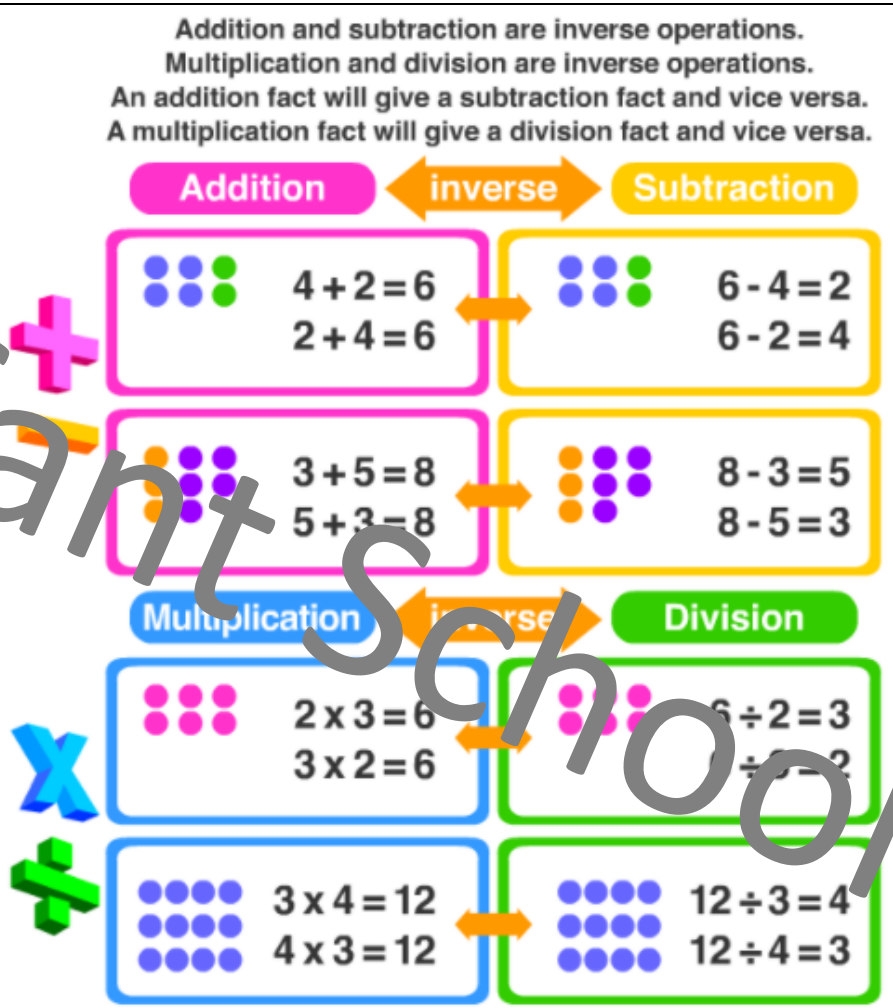
Maths vocabulary	Definition	Example
Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division		
operation	An operation is a mathematical procedure or process used to work something out.	

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sign	Signs and symbols are used to represent values, equality, operations, grouping and mathematical terms.	

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signs and symbols, symbols and signs

+	plus, add, positive	°	degree, degrees
-	minus, subtract, less, take away, negative	%	percent
x *	times, multiplied by	π Π	pi ... 3.14 approximately
÷ /	divided by, divide	Σ	sum
=	is equal to, equals	∞	infinity
≠	is not equal to	∴	therefore
≈	is approximately equal to	!	factorial
<	is less than	x^n	nth power of x
>	is greater than	√	square root
≤	is less than or equal to	( )	brackets, parentheses
≥	is greater than or equal to	{ }	braces, curly brackets
.	decimal point	[ ]	brackets, square brackets
$\overleftrightarrow{AB}$	line	*f*	frequency, function
$\overrightarrow{AB}$	ray	𝍸 𝍸 𝍸 𝍸	tally marks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
$\overline{AB}$	line segment	$	dollar, dollars
∥	parallel	¢	cent, cents
⊥	perpendicular	£	pound, pounds
	lines - equal length	€	euro, euros
∠	angle	¥	yen
∟	right angle		
△	triangle		
~	is similar to (same shape)		
≅	is congruent to (same shape and size)		

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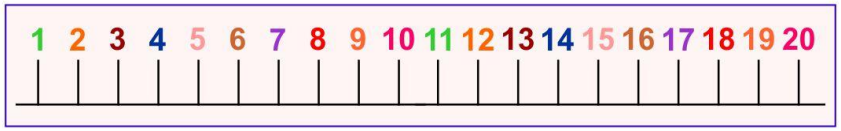
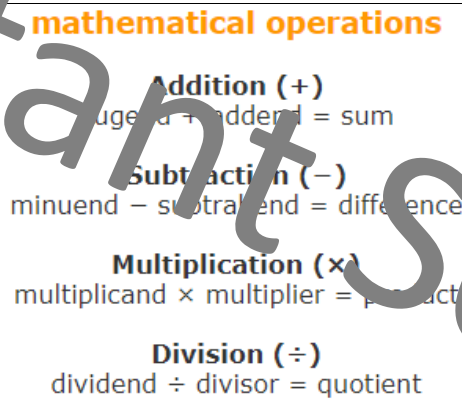
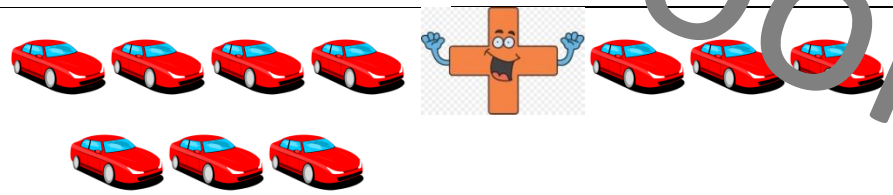
number line	A number line is a line marked with numbers used as a visual aid for calculating and showing relationships between values.	
number sentence	A number sentence is a mathematical sentence written in numerals and mathematical symbols. Can be used instead of the word equation for younger children.	4 + 4 = 8 8 - 4 = 4 2 x 4 = 8 8 ÷ 4 = 2 4 x 2 = 8 8 ÷ 2 = 4
calculate	Calculate means to work something out. To work out a mathematical operation.	
addition	Addition is joining two or more numbers or quantities to get one number which is called the sum or total. Addition is commutative which means that numbers can be added in any order and give the same answer.	 7 + 3 = 10

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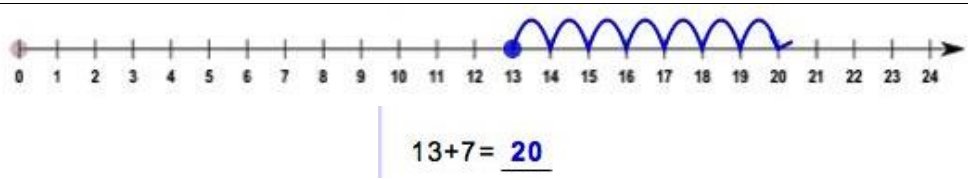
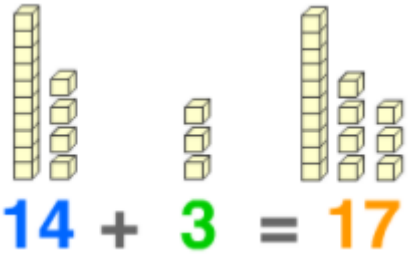
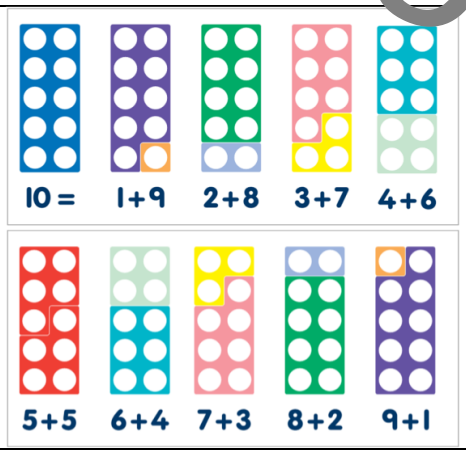
add	Another word for addition.	
plus	Another word for addition.	
total	The total of something is the sum or whole amount.	4 + 5 + 10 = 19
total	The total is the sum or whole amount. It is the result of addition.	
number bonds	Number bonds are simple additions of two numbers that add up to give the sum. Number bond knowledge helps with quick recall of facts.	

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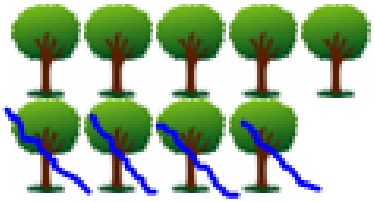
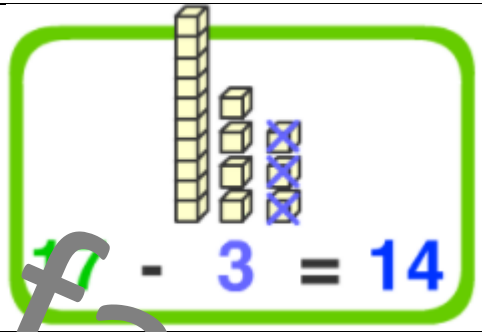
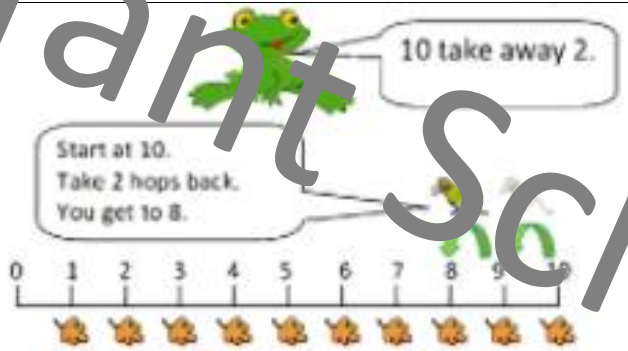
subtraction	Subtraction is taking one quantity away from another quantity.	 9 – 4 = 5
subtract	Another word for subtraction.	
minus	Another word for subtraction.	
take away	Another word for subtraction.	15 – 8 = 7

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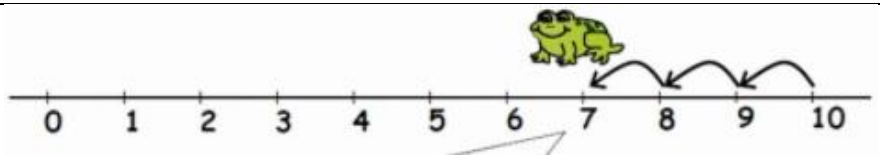
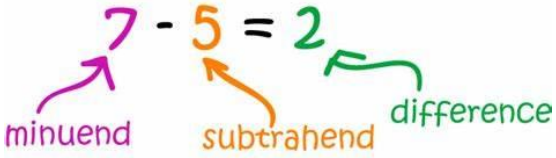
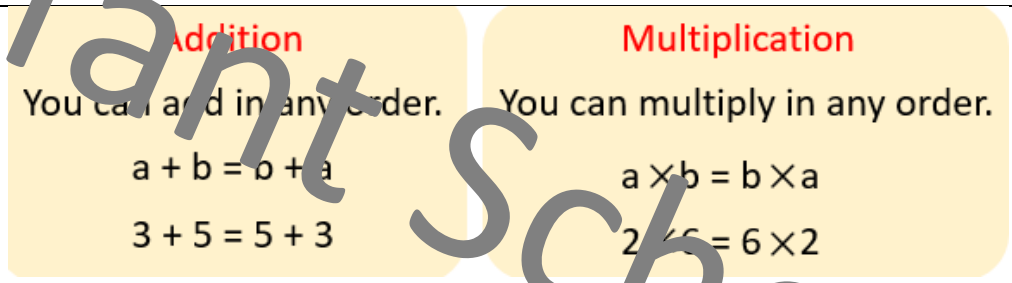
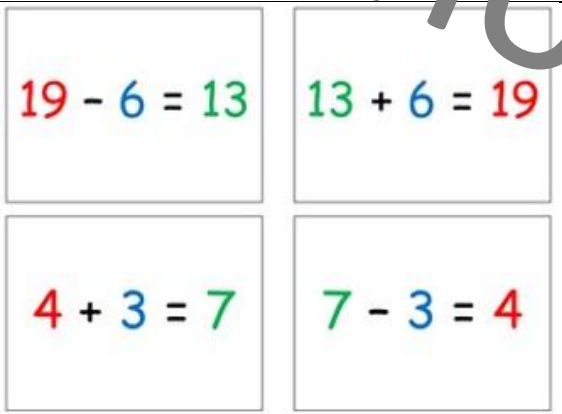
left	Another word to symbolise using subtraction to find how many are 'left' from the original number.	
difference	The difference between two quantities or values involves subtraction. The smaller number is subtracted from the larger number to find the answer.	
commutative	The commutative law shows that numbers may be added or multiplied together in any order and give the same answer. This happens in addition and multiplication.	
inverse	Inverse means to do the opposite. Addition and subtraction are inverse operations and multiplication and division are inverse operations.	

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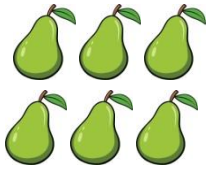
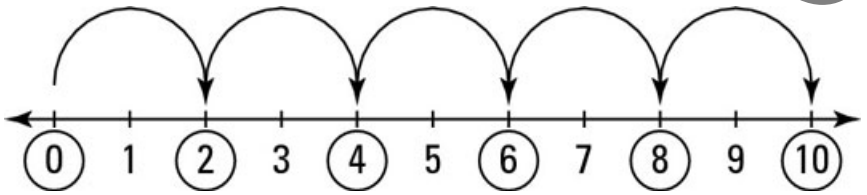
multiplication	Multiplication is an operation where a number is added to itself a number of times. The multiplicand is the number being multiplied and the multiplier is the number doing the multiplying. An answer of a multiplication is called the product or multiple. Multiplication is commutative which means that numbers can be multiplied in any order and give the same answer.	  2 x 3 = 6 2 groups of 3 = 6
times	The process of multiplication. X symbol is used for multiplication.	 3 x 5 = 15 3 groups of 5 = 15
jumps of	A method using a number line for multiplication where you 'jump' the group the required amount of times to find the answer.	

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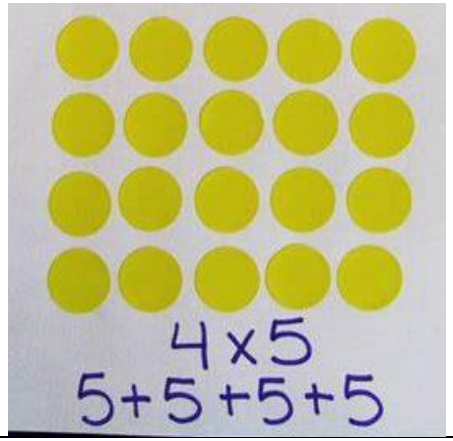
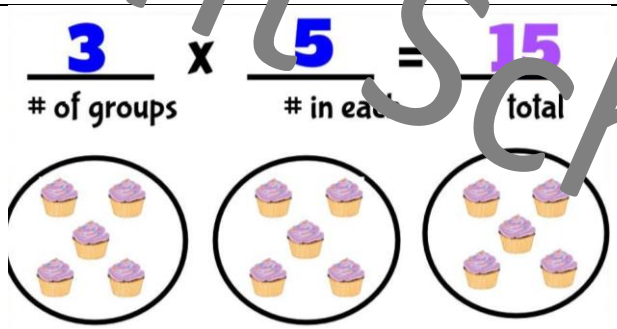
multiply	Another word for multiplication.	
repeated addition	A method used where the multiplicand is added the amount of times of the multiplier to get the answer. This can be done using a number line.	
groups of	Is the process of dividing into equal groups or sets.	
array	An array is a set of objects or numbers arranged in order. It is often arranged in rows and columns to make counting and calculating easier.	 Real life example of an array 5 groups of 3 5 x 3 = 15

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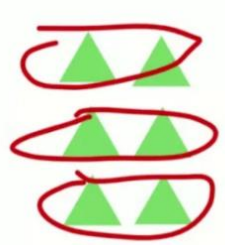
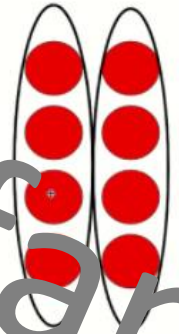
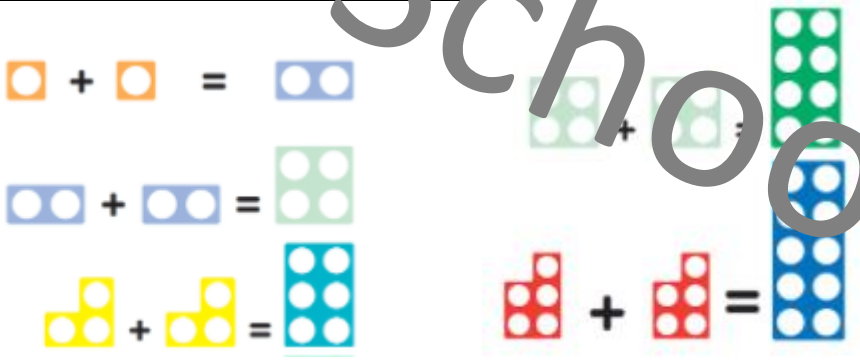
row	A row is items arranged in horizontal lines.	 Three rows of two 3 x 2 = 6
columns	A column is items arranged in vertical lines.	 Two columns of four 2 x 4 = 8
double	Double is a value multiplied two. It makes it twice as much.	

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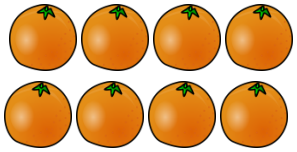
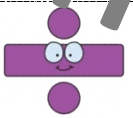
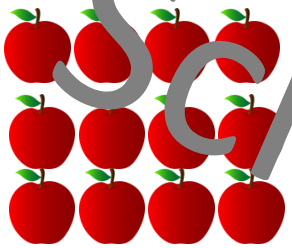
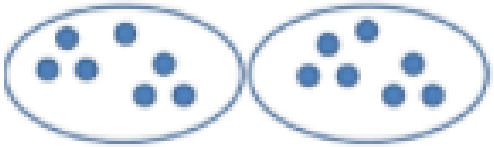
division	Division is an operation where a number is shared or grouped into equal parts. The dividend is the number being divided and the divisor is the number that the dividend will be divided into exactly. Numbers left over that cannot be shared or grouped equally are called remainders.	 8 ÷ 2 = 4
share	Sharing means to divide into equal groups.	6 shared between 3 equals 2 each 6 ÷3 = 2
divide	Another word for division.	  12 ÷ 3 = 4
grouping	Grouping is used to divide things into equal groups or sets.	 There are 7 in each group. Division sentence: 14 ÷ 2 = 7

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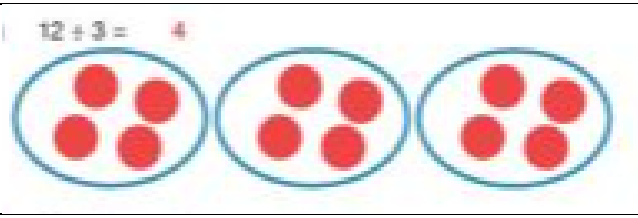
sharing	Sharing is dividing into equal groups.	
remainder	A remainder is the word used for an amount left over after dividing a number into equal groups.	10 ÷3 = 3 r 1

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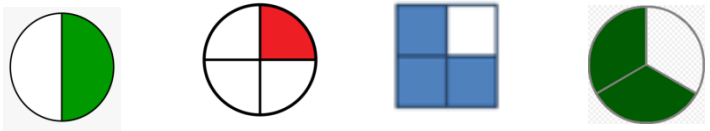
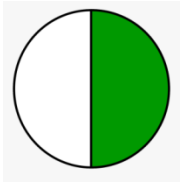
Maths vocabulary	Definition	Example
Fractions		
fraction	A fraction is any part of a group, number or whole. It can be shown using physical objects pictorially or using numbers.	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{3}$ 
numerator	The top part of a fraction. Shows how many parts of a whole.	$\frac{1}{2}$ ← The Numerator → $\frac{3}{4}$
denominator	The bottom part of a fraction. Shows how many parts to make the whole.	$\frac{2}{3}$ Denominator is 3 , $\frac{5}{7}$ Denominator is 7
half	A half is a fraction that shows one of two equal parts.	$\frac{1}{2}$  One half One part out of two.

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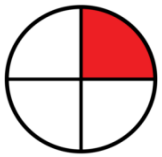
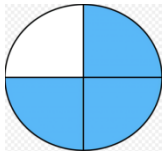
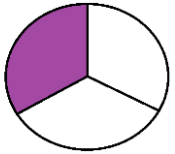
quarter	A quarter is a fraction that shows one or more of four equal parts.	 One quarter One part out of four. $\frac{3}{4}$  Three quarters Three parts out of four
part	An amount or section which, when combined with the others make the whole fraction shape or amount.	1 is one part out of 3 3 3 is three parts out of 4 4
whole	A whole is all the parts or the total amounts.	$\frac{4}{4}$ is the same as 1
third	A third is a fraction that shows one or more parts of three equal parts.	$\frac{1}{3}$  One third One part out of three. $\frac{2}{3}$ Two thirds Two parts out of three.

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same	When two things are equal.	$\frac{1}{2}$ is the same as $\frac{2}{4}$

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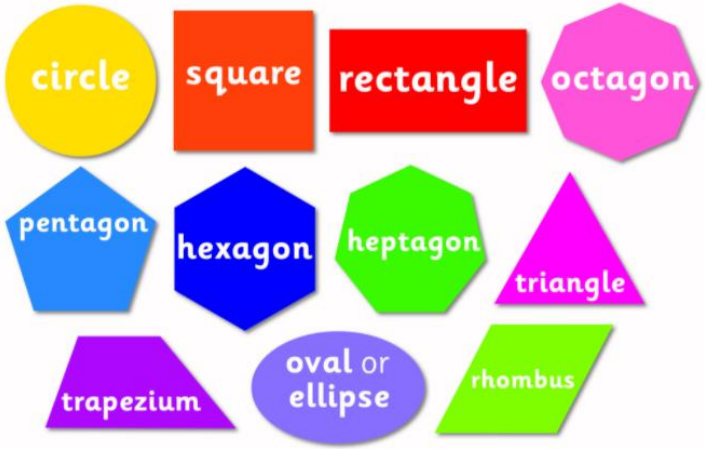
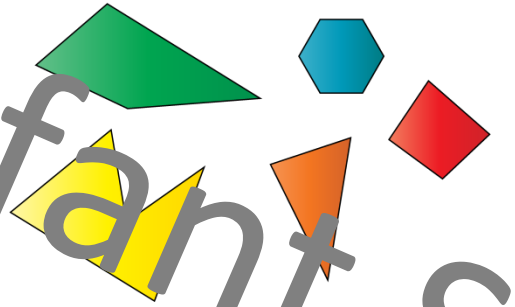
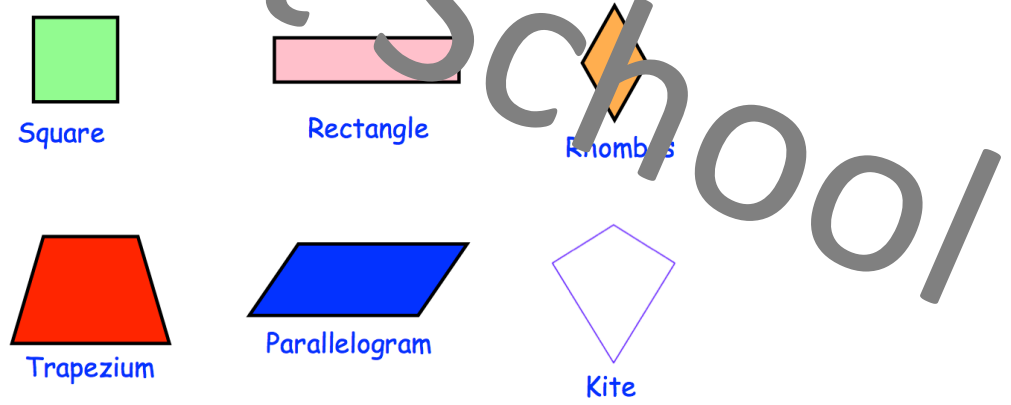
Maths vocabulary	Definition	Example
Shape		
two dimensional (2d)	Two-dimensional (2D) means having two dimensions of length and width (or breadth).	
polygon	A polygon is a shape that has three or more straight sides. Polygons may be regular (all sides and angles equal sizes) or irregular (varying sides and angle sizes).	
quadrilateral	A quadrilateral is a polygon with four sides and four angles.	

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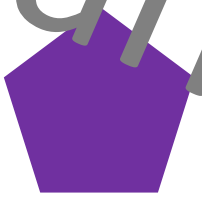
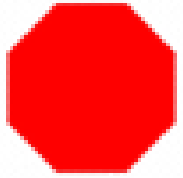
square	A square is a 2D shape that has 4 equal sides and 4 corners. A square is also a quadrilateral.	4 equal sides 4 corners
circle	A circle is a 2D shape that has 1 side and 0 corners.	1 side 0 corners
triangle	A triangle is a 2D shape that has 3 sides and 3 corners. There are different types of triangles.	3 sides 3 corners
pentagon	A pentagon is a 2D shape that has 5 sides and 5 corners.	 5 sides 5 corners
hexagon	A hexagon is a 2D shape that has 6 sides and 6 corners.	6 sides 6 corners
octagon	An octagon has 8 sides and 8 corners.	 8 sides 8 corners

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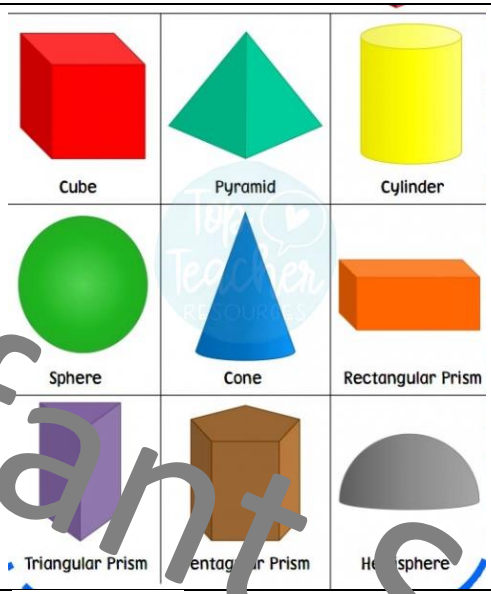
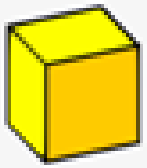
rectangle	A rectangle has 4 sides (2 long and 2 shorter) and 4 corners. A rectangle is also a quadrilateral.	4 sides (2 long and 2 short) 4 corners
three-dimensional (3D)	Three-dimensional (3D) means having three dimensions of length, width (or breadth) and height.	
sphere	A 3D shape that has 1 curved surface, 0 edges and 0 vertices.	1 curved surface 0 edges 0 vertices
cone	A 3D shape that has 2 faces, 1 curved edge and 1 vertex.	2 faces 1 curved edge 1 vertex
cube	A cube is a 3D shape that has 6 faces, 12 edges and 8 vertices.	 6 faces 12 edges 8 vertices

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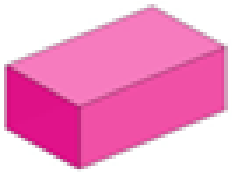
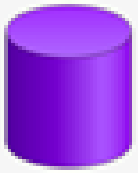
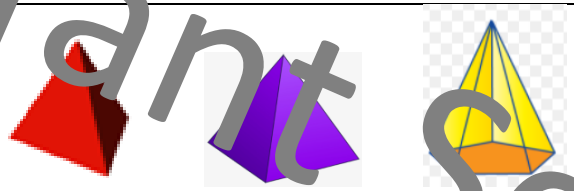
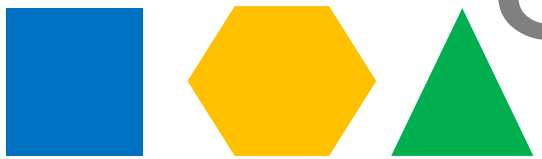
cuboid	A cuboid is a 3D shape that has 6 faces, 12 edges and 8 vertices.	 6 faces 12 edges 8 vertices
cylinder	A cylinder is a 3D shape that has 3 faces, 2 edges and 0 vertices.	 3 faces 2 edges 0 vertices
prism	A prism is a 3D shape with two identical parallel polygon bases. For example triangular prism, square prism or hexagonal prism.	
pyramid	A pyramid is a 3D shape with a polygon base and triangular faces that taper to the vertex. For example triangular pyramid, square-based pyramid or hexagonal-based pyramid.	
flat	A shape that is level with no height or depth.	
solid	3D shapes are solid as they have length, width (or breadth) and height). You can pick them up.	
hold	You can pick it up, carry it and support it with your hands. You can hold 3D shapes.	

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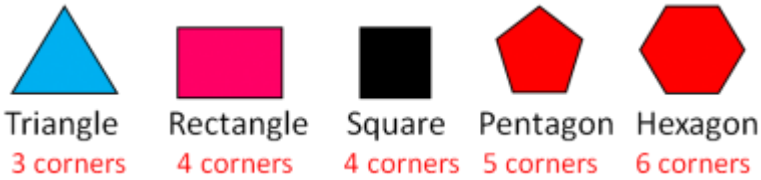
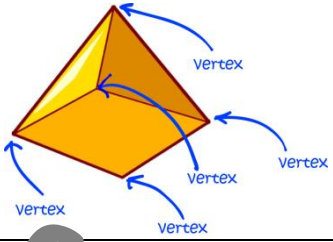
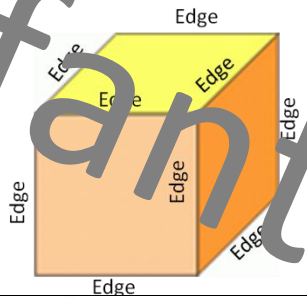
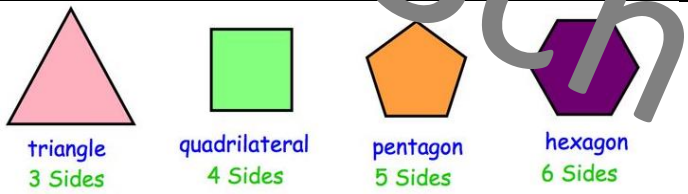
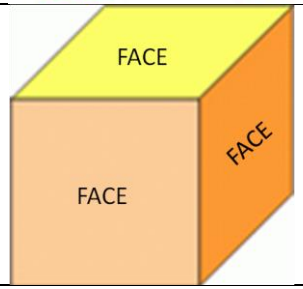
corners	A corner is the point where the edges meet. Also called a vertex.	
vertices	A vertex is another word for a corner. The plural is vertices.	 A square based pyramid has 5 vertices.
edges	Edges are where two faces meet on a 3D shape.	 A cube has 12 edges.
sides	Side refers to the lines joining at a vertex of a polygon.	
faces	Faces are the flat surfaces on a 3D shape.	 A cube has 6 faces.

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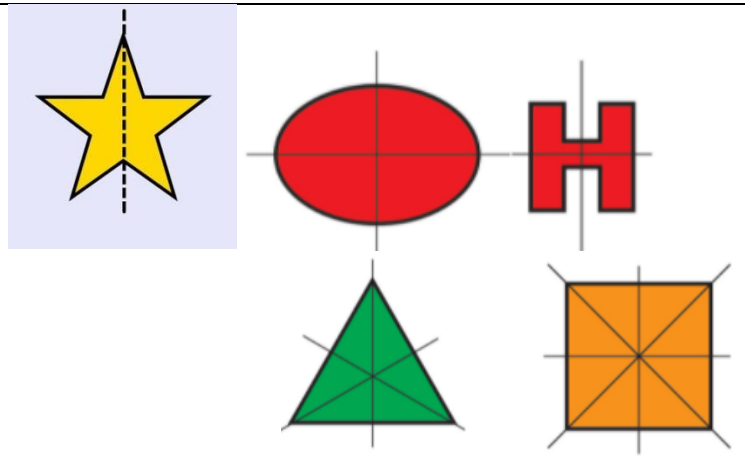
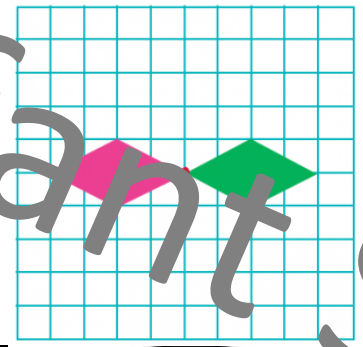
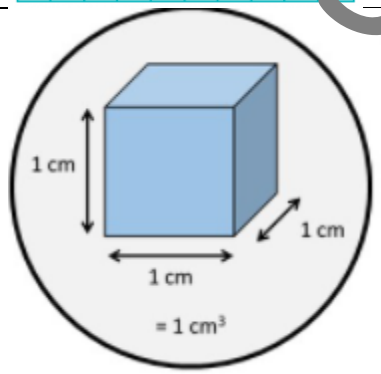
symmetry	An object is symmetrical when one is a mirror image of the other half. A shape may have more than one line of symmetry.	
rotation	Rotation means to turn an object around a centre point. The angle of rotation is measured in degrees.	
volume	Volume is the measurement of the amount of space occupied by an object.	

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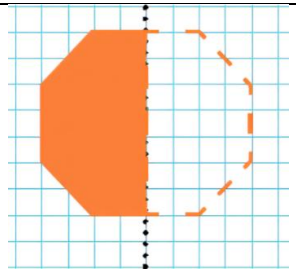
reflection	Reflection is a geometric transformation resulting in a mirror image. In a reflection, a shape is flipped over a mirror line or line of reflection to face the opposite direction.	

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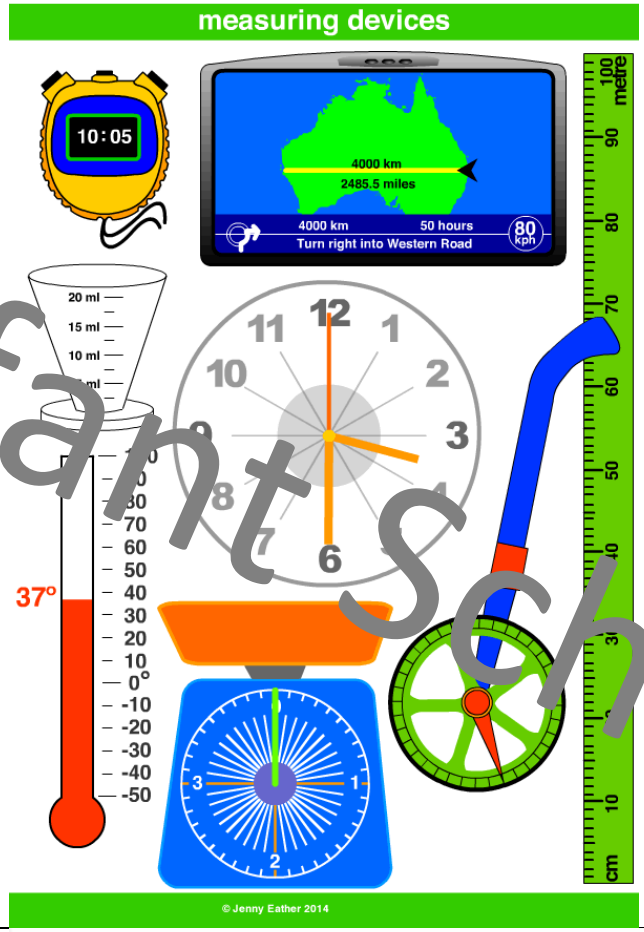
Maths vocabulary	Definition	Example
Measure		
measure	Measure or measuring uses standard units to determine the size or quantity of something. This is usually in regard to length, width, breadth, height, area, mass or weight, volume, capacity, temperature and time.	
long	A word to describe the length of something.	The hammer is longer than the pin.

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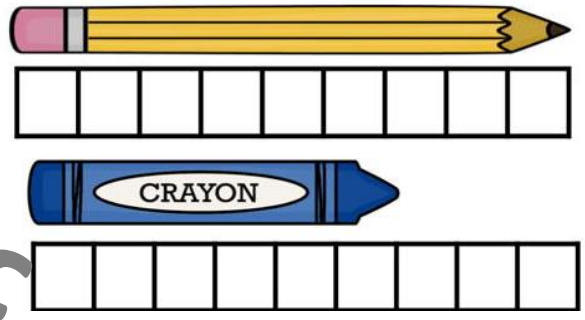
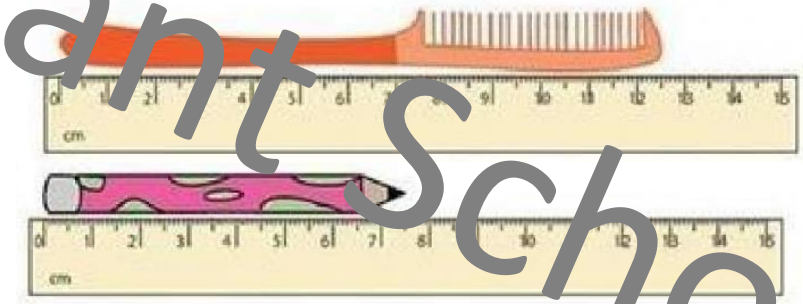
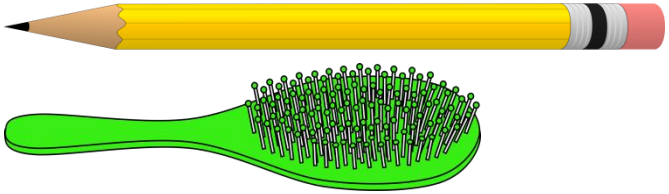
short	A word to describe the length of something.	The screw is shorter than the screwdriver.
longer	When one length is more than others.	 The pencil is 9 cubes The crayon is 6 cubes. The pencil is longer than the crayon.
shorter	When one length is shorter than others.	 The pencil is shorter than the comb.
longest	The object that has the greatest length measurement.	 The pencil is the longest.

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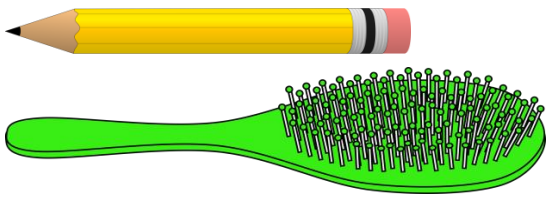
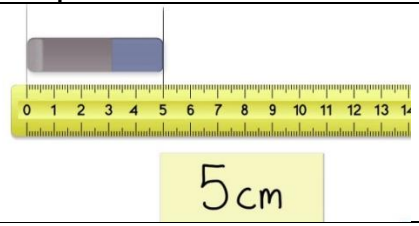
shortest	The object that has the least length measurement.	 The pencil is the shortest.
centimetre (cm)	Centimetre is a metric unit used to measure length.	
metre (m)	Metre is the base unit of length in the metric system.	m = metre
length	Length is the distance from one end to the other. It measures how long something is.	
width	Width measures the distance across something – side to side.	
weigh	To measure the weight or mass of an object.	

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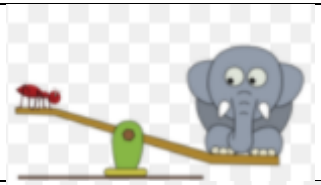
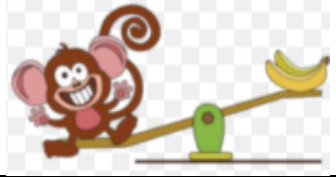
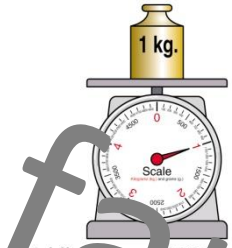
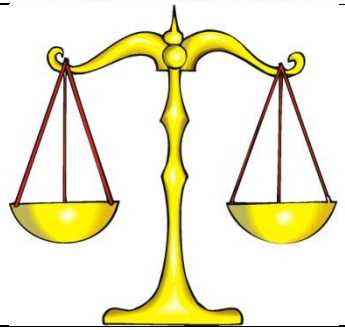
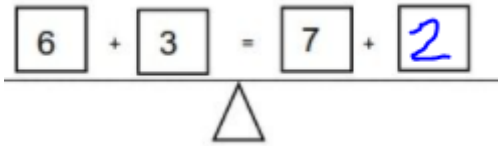
heaviest	The object that has the greatest weight measurement.	 The elephant is the heaviest.
lightest	The object that has the least weight measurement.	 The bananas are the lightest.
kilogram (kg)	Kilogram is a metric unit used to measure mass or weight.	 kg = kilogram
gram (g)	Gram is a metric unit used to measure weight or mass.	g = gram 20 g, 10 g, 5 g, and 1 g masses
balance	Balance means to have the same weight (mass) or amount on either side.	 

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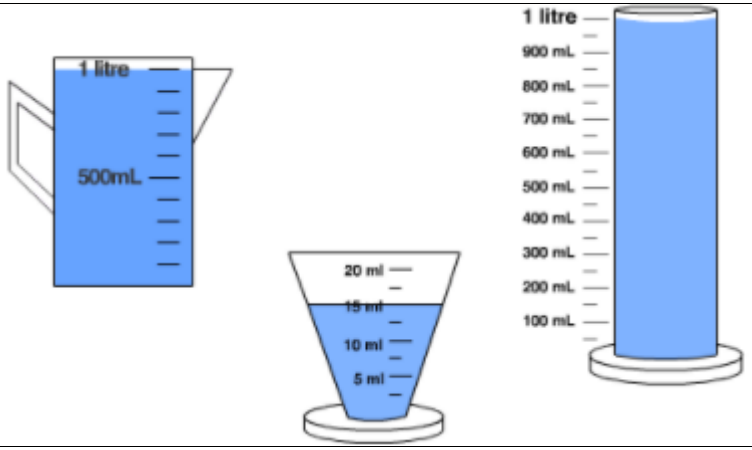
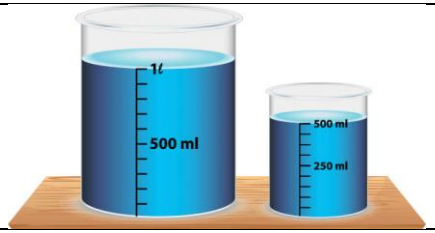
capacity	Capacity is the amount a container or something can hold.	
full	A container for capacity that has been filled with liquid so no more can go in.	
empty	A container for capacity that has no liquid.	
half full	A container for capacity that has half the amount of liquid and the other half is empty.	
millilitre (ml)	Millilitre is a metric unit used to measure capacity or liquid volume.	 ml = millilitre

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litre (L)	Litre is a metric unit used to measure capacity or liquid volume.	L = litre
temperature	Temperature is a measurement of how hot or cold something is. A thermometer is used to measure the temperature. It is measured in degrees.	
hot	A word to describe the temperature.	
cold	A word to describe the temperature.	
degrees	Is the unit for measuring temperature.	°C = degrees Celsius

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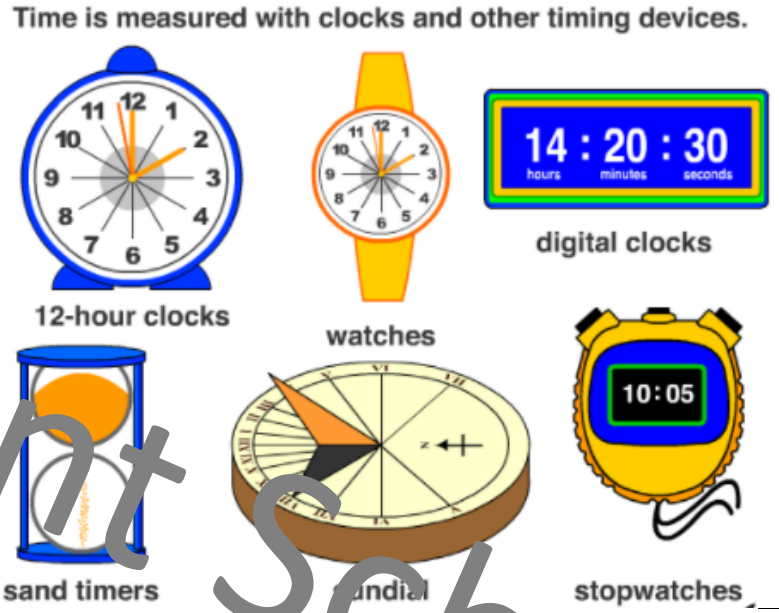
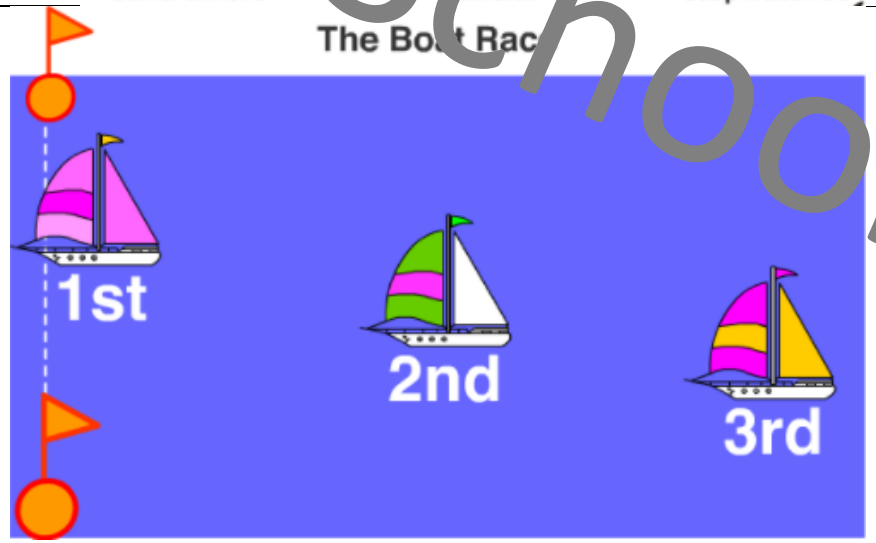
Maths vocabulary	Definition	Example
Time		
time	Time is a continuum from past to present to future. It is the interval between two events or the duration of an event.	
first	First is an ordinal number. It shows what is the beginning number or object.	
second	Second is an ordinal number. It is the position after first.	
third	Third is an ordinal number. It is the position after second.	

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next	The first or soonest occasion after the present.	
then	After doing something.	
after	A later or future time.	
quick	Moving fast or doing something in a short time.	
slow	Moving at low speed or doing something in a long time.	
days	A unit of time measured based on the time it takes for the Earth to revolve once. There are 24 hours in a day and 7 days in one week.	
week	A unit of time that is equal to 7 days.	

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months	There are 12 months in a year all with varying amounts of days.	<table><tr><th>No.</th><th>Name</th><th>Days</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>January</td><td>31</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>February</td><td>28 or 29</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>March</td><td>31</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>April</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>May</td><td>31</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>June</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>July</td><td>31</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>August</td><td>31</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>September</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>October</td><td>31</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>November</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>December</td><td>31</td></tr></table>
minutes	A unit of time that is equal to 60 seconds. There are 60 minutes in an hour.	
hours	A unit of time that is equal to 60 minutes. There are 24 hours in 1 day.	
o'clock	Used to specify the hour when telling the time.	Two o'clock

half past	Used to specify half way past an hour when telling the time.	Half past six
quarter to	Used to specify 45 minutes past (or 15 minutes to) an hour when telling the time	Quarter to seven
quarter past	Used to specify 15 minutes past an hour when telling the time	Quarter past four

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Maths vocabulary	Definition	Example
Money		
coin	A flat disc of money with an official stamp that is used as money. They are different sizes and colours to show different values of money.	
pence	The plural form of penny. A penny is a British bronze coin. There are 100 pennies in one pound.	p
pounds	A gold coin equal to 100 pennies.	£

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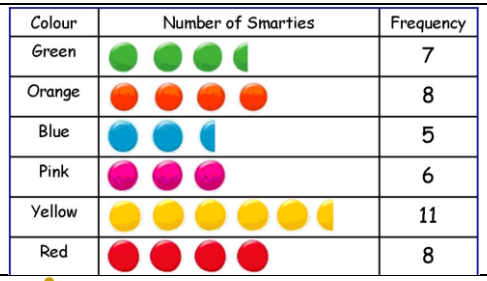
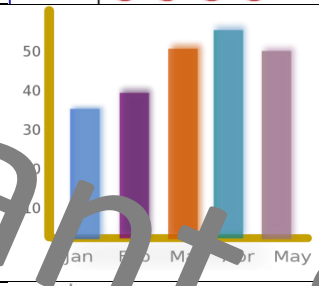
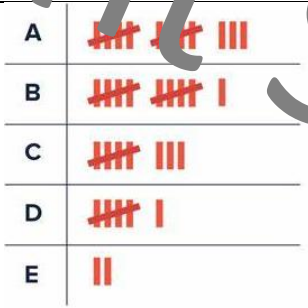
Maths vocabulary	Definition	Example
Statistics		
pictogram	A pictogram is a graph that uses pictures to represent quantity.	
block diagram	A block diagram is a graph that uses bars to represent statistical information.	
tally chart	A tally chart is used to gather data as it creates a record of an amount by using tally marks to record counting. Tally marks are counted in 5s.	

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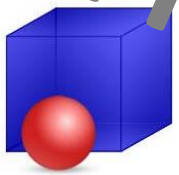
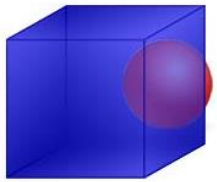
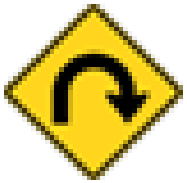
Maths vocabulary	Definition	Example
Position and direction		
above	Vocabulary used to describe where something is in relation to another object.	The box is above the ball.
below	Vocabulary used to describe where something is in relation to another object.	The car is below the bird.
in between	Vocabulary used to describe where something is in relation to another object.	The ball is in between the boxes.
in front	Vocabulary used to describe where something is in relation to another object.	 The ball is in front of the box.
behind	Vocabulary used to describe where something is in relation to another object.	 The ball is behind the box.
turn	When an object is rotated it is turned.	

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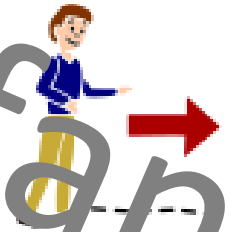
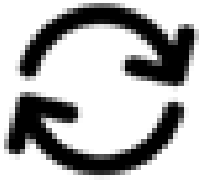
right	A word used to describe the position of something.	
left	A word used to describe the position of something.	
forward	Moving in the direction you are facing.	
backward	Moving in the opposite direction that you are facing.	
clockwise	Clockwise is moving the same direction as the way the hands on the clock go.	
anti-clockwise	Anti-clockwise is moving in the opposite direction as the way the hands on the clock go.	

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