Master Comparing Lengths

Rationale

In this step, pupils build on their previous learning of measuring length and comparing numbers to compare lengths and heights.

They will use recorded measures in centimetres or metres to compare two lengths or heights using the vocabulary 'taller than', 'longer than', 'shorter than' and 'equal to'. They will also use the mathematical symbols <, > and = to record comparisons.

Pupils will develop their learning by writing digits to complete comparison statements.

Key Stem Sentences

- The _____ is longer than / taller than / shorter than / equal to the _____.
- ___cm / m is longer than / taller than / shorter than / equal to ___cm / m.
- ___cm / m < / > / = ___cm / m

Key Vocabulary

- compare
- taller / longer / shorter
- equal to

Key Representations

Metre stick

The height of the sewing machine is 43cm. The height of the easel is 47cm. 43cm is shorter than 47cm. The sewing machine is shorter than the easel.

Tape measure

The length of the limousine is 10m. The length of the car is 4m. 10m is longer than 4m. The limousine is longer than the car.
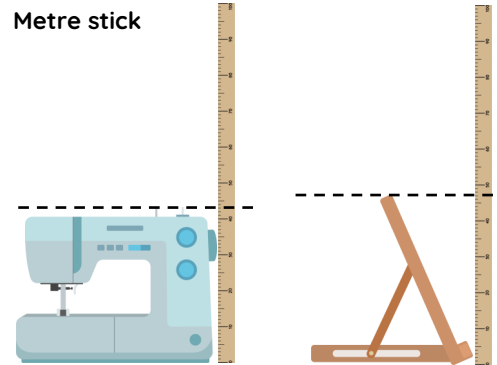
Common Errors or Misconceptions

- Pupils may use incorrect vocabulary to compare. For example, they may say 'bigger' instead of longer.
- Pupils may know which object is longer / shorter but not be secure with which symbol to use, resulting in an incorrect response.
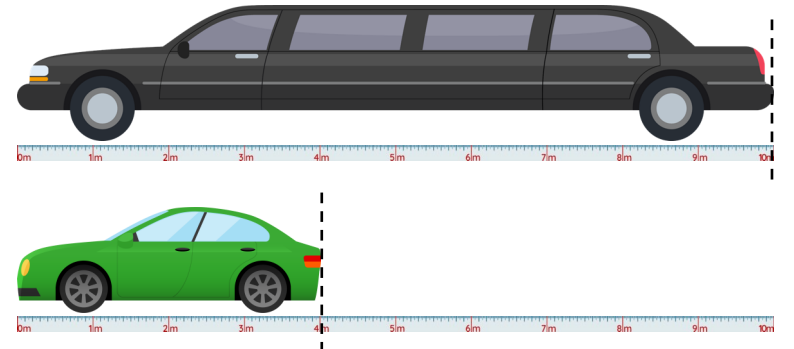
Pupils will FLOURISH if they can...

- compare objects to identify whether one object is taller, shorter, longer or equal in length to another.
- use the symbols <, > and = to record comparisons between given lengths and heights in centimetres and metres.
- write digits to complete comparison statements.
- explain their understanding using written sentences and mathematical proof.