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Which Covers More?

Skills

- Compare the sizes of two areas
- Order three or more areas

Grouping

- whole class
- small groups
- pairs

Materials

- different-shaped cloths (towels, wash cloths, etc.)
- a piece of paper and a book
- two apples
- Which Covers More? activity cards (page 43)



Directions

- Ask students, “How many different large areas do you know about at school?” (e.g., outdoor playing areas, sidewalk areas, out-of-bounds areas) Have students think of just two areas. Ask, “Which area is larger? What makes you think this?” (e.g., I imagined overlapping one on top of the other.)
- Ask students, “How can you compare two similar size areas?” Show students the different sized cloths. Ask, “How can we find out which area is larger?” (e.g., If they look about the same size, I can place one on top of the other and see if one is larger.)
- Ask students, “What’s another way to compare areas?” Show students the piece of paper and the book cover. Ask, “How can we find out which area is larger?” (e.g., I can cut the paper up and rearrange it on top of the book to see if it covers the same area.)
- Ask students, “How can you compare two areas if they are not flat?” Show students two apples. Ask, “How can we find out which area is larger?” (e.g., I can peel them and compare the area covered by peel. Or I can wrap a piece of paper around one and then see if I need a larger piece to wrap the other one.)
- With a partner, have each student find pairs of objects that he or she thinks:
 - a) both cover the same area
 - b) have one area smaller or larger than the other
- Have students estimate first, and then check by imagining/overlapping/cutting/wrapping. Have them record their favorite discoveries.
- Discuss problems together. (e.g., What do you do/say if there is just a small difference in area? What strategy did you use to check areas that couldn’t be picked up and compared directly?)

Variation

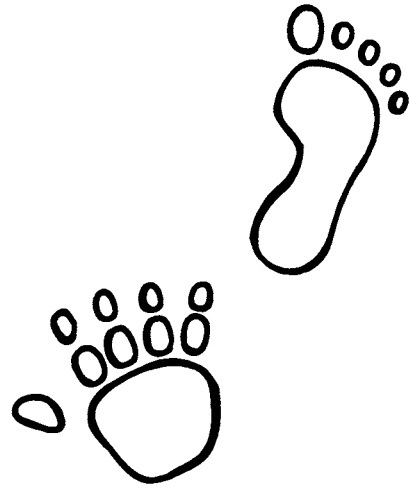
- Have students use the Which Covers More? cards and then have them invent even more challenges for another team to try.

Which Covers More?

Your hand or your foot print?

Estimate first, then find a way to check.

Who has the largest hand and foot area in your group?



Which Covers More?

Your body outline or your friend's outline?

Estimate first, then find a way to check.

Who has the smallest body outline in your group?

