

Measure Water in Cups

Estimate, pour and check liquid amounts.

GRADE 2 • 2.MG.1.b.iii

2.MG.1.b.iii "Use U.S. Customary units to estimate, measure, and compare the two for reasonableness: the liquid volume of a container to the nearest cup, using a measuring cup."

NAME _____ DATE _____

Work with an adult. Guess first. Use the measuring cup next. Talk where asked.

Materials and setup

Bring a liquid measuring cup holding at least 4 U.S. cups, two clear containers labeled A and B, water and a tray. An adult prepares different amounts between 1 and 3 cups that round to different whole cups; avoid halfway points.

For the example, show a level between 1 and 2, nearer 2. For task 7, show a level between 2 and 3, nearer 3. Read each step and help pour.

Nearest cup

A measuring cup tells how much liquid there is. Put it flat and look at the water level at eye height. Choose the nearest whole-cup mark. Exactly halfway? Choose the larger number.

Try it together

An adult shows water between 1 and 2 cups, closer to 2.

Example only

Record	My answer
Estimate	1 cup
Measurement	2 cups

Find the two whole-cup marks. Choose the one nearer the water level. The measured amount is about 2 cups.

1. Estimate water in A

Look at the water in container A. Guess how many cups of water there are. Write a whole-number estimate. Do not pour yet. Write in cups.

2. Measure water in A

With an adult, pour all of A's water into the measuring cup. Set it flat. Look at the level. Write the nearest whole-cup amount. Write in cups.

3. Check your guess

Compare your estimate and measurement for A. Were they close? Tell how measuring helped you check. Pour the water back into A.

4. Try water in B

Estimate B's water first. Then pour it into the empty measuring cup with help. Record the nearest whole-cup amount. Pour the water back into B.

Container B

Record	My answer
Estimate (cups)	
Measured amount (cups)	

5. Water for our plants

We want the container with more water. Compare your measured amounts for A and B. Write the letter. Tell how you know.

6. A new amount

An adult puts a new amount in A. Estimate first. Then measure to the nearest cup. Record both. Tell whether your estimate was close.

A, refilled

Record	My answer
Estimate (cups)	
Measured amount (cups)	

7. Choose the near mark

An adult shows water between the 2-cup and 3-cup marks, closer to 3. Point to the nearer mark. Write the nearest-cup amount.

Teacher notes

Guide all pouring and read aloud. Use U.S. cup marks, not ounces or milliliters. Observe the level at eye height on a flat surface. Check variable answers against the actual water; accept sensible estimates. These tasks measure the water present, not each container's full capacity.

Task 1

Accept a reasonable estimate of the actual water amount before measuring.

Task 2

Correct nearest-cup measurement of A's actual water; learner reads at eye level on the cup scale.

Task 3

Compares the two recorded numbers and uses the measured amount to judge the estimate.

Task 4

Estimate before pouring, then correct nearest-cup reading for B.

Task 5

The container with the greater measured whole-cup amount.

Setup places the two amounts in different nearest-cup ranges, so the rounded comparison also identifies the greater actual volume.

Task 6

A new estimate and the correct nearest-cup measurement; explanation uses these two numbers.

Use an empty measuring cup; measure all the water, not just some of it.

Task 7

3 cups. The water level is nearer 3 than 2.