

Strip Clue Chain

Students compare real strips with a middle strip, then put them in length order.

CCSS.Math.Content.1.MD.A.1 "Order three objects by length; compare the lengths of two objects indirectly by using a third object."

NAME _____

DATE _____

Teacher: this page is run aloud. The script and answers are on the guide page.

1 CIRCLE IT _____

a	C	A	B
b	B	A	C
c	C	B	A

2 PUT IN ORDER _____

short	
middle	
long	

HOW TO RUN THIS PAGE

Prepare three equal-width strip sets for each child or pair. Set 1: A=4 cm, B=8 cm, C=12 cm. Set 2: C=4 cm, A=8 cm, B=12 cm. Set 3: B=4 cm, C=8 cm, A=12 cm. Label backs so children compare lengths rather than read measurements. For each Circle It row, place the shortest and longest strips at separate stations. Children take only the middle strip to each station, align endpoints and compare; then use that strip as the link between the others. State the original clues after children establish both comparisons. For Put in Order, reuse Set 2 and let children align and order all three strips. Read all directions; accept pointing or oral answers before recording letters.

Students never read directions on this sheet. Read each part's script aloud, then each prompt, giving think time before students mark.

PART 1 • CIRCLE IT

SAY “Compare the real strips using the middle strip I give you. Align one end when you compare. Keep the other two strips at their separate stations. Tell me what you found at each station, then use those two comparisons to choose the longer outer strip.”

ROW	SAY	STUDENTS CIRCLE
a	Use Set 1 and compare A with B, then B with C. What did you find? A is shorter than B, and B is shorter than C. Without putting A and C together, which is longer, A or C? Circle its letter.	C
b	Use Set 2 and compare C with A, then A with B. What did you find? C is shorter than A, and A is shorter than B. Without putting B and C together, which is longer, B or C? Circle its letter.	B
c	Use Set 3 and compare B with C, then C with A. What did you find? B is shorter than C, and C is shorter than A. Without putting A and B together, which is longer, A or B? Circle its letter.	A

PART 2 • PUT IN ORDER

SAY “Use the real strips in Set 2. Align their starting ends and put them in order from shortest to longest. Show me. Write the shortest strip letter beside short, the middle letter beside middle, and the longest letter beside long.”

- Box 1 (beside short): **C**
- Box 2 (beside middle): **A**
- Box 3 (beside long): **B**

WHAT TO ACCEPT

Circle C, B, A. Set 2 order is C, A, B. Accept recognizable uppercase/lowercase letters or adult recording of a correct pointed/oral answer. Observe actual endpoint comparisons with the middle strip and ask the child to explain the two links; repeating the supplied clue without comparing is incomplete. Check actual ordering of Set 2 before accepting the boxes.