

Greater Than, Less Than, Equal To

Students sort rocks by estimated weight, then measure them to check their guesses.

Skills and Concepts: measurement of weight; concept of *greater than*, *less than*, *equal to*; graphing; sorting and classifying

Steps

- 1 Place ten rocks, the balance scale, copies of the record sheet, and a crayon at a center.
- 2 Invite students to visit the center, choose one rock, and trace its shape in the space provided on the record sheet.
- 3 Students should then measure the weight of the rock using the balance scale and gram weights. If gram weights are unavailable, nonstandard units may be substituted. Have students record the weight on the record sheet.
- 4 Have students sort the other nine rocks into piles representing rocks they think are greater than, less than, and equal to the weight of the first rock.
- 5 Have students test their predictions by measuring each rock against the first, then record results by completing the graph on the record sheet.
- 6 Once all students have had a chance to visit the center, gather them together with their record sheets. Ask students to share with you the weight of the rock they chose. Ask individual students the following questions:
 - ✧ How many rocks had a weight greater than your rock?
 - ✧ How many rocks had a weight equal to your rock?
 - ✧ How many rocks had a weight less than your rock?

Materials

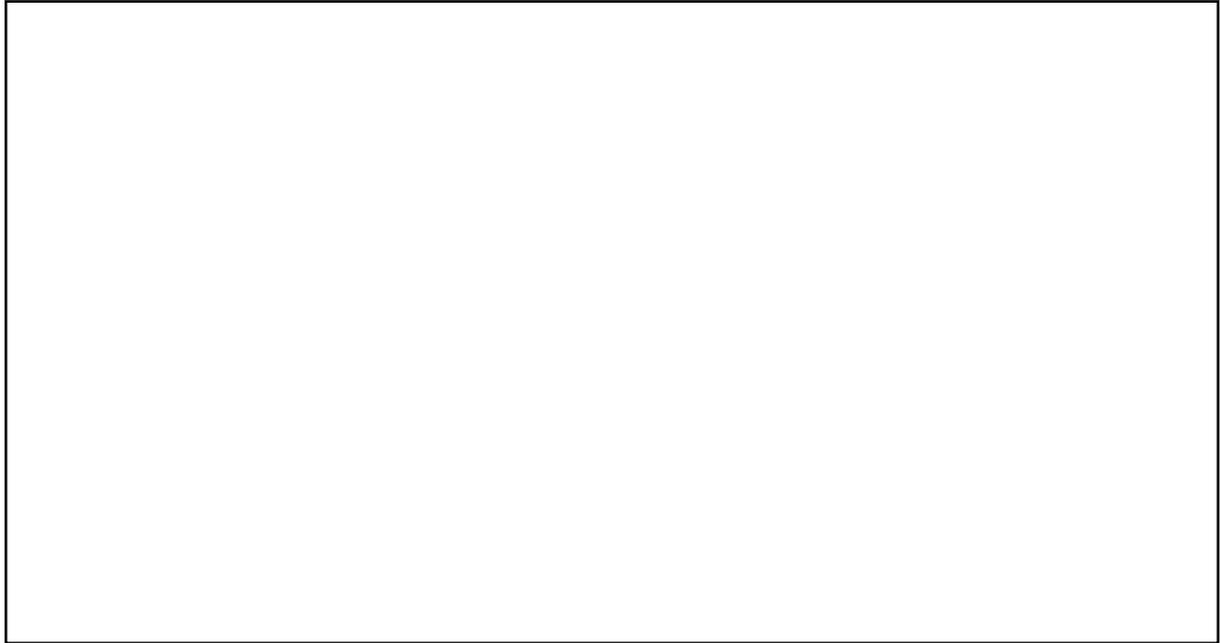
- **ten rocks**
(different sizes and shapes)
- **balance scale**
- **Greater Than, Less Than, Equal To record sheet**
(see page 100)
- **crayons**
- **gram weights or non-standard measuring units**
(such as blocks, cubes, or tiles)
- **marker**

Greater Than, Less Than, Equal To

Name _____

Date _____

This is what my rock looks like:



This is how much my rock weighs: _____

	Greater than my rock	Equal to my rock	Less than my rock
9			
8			
7			
6			
5			
4			
3			
2			
1			