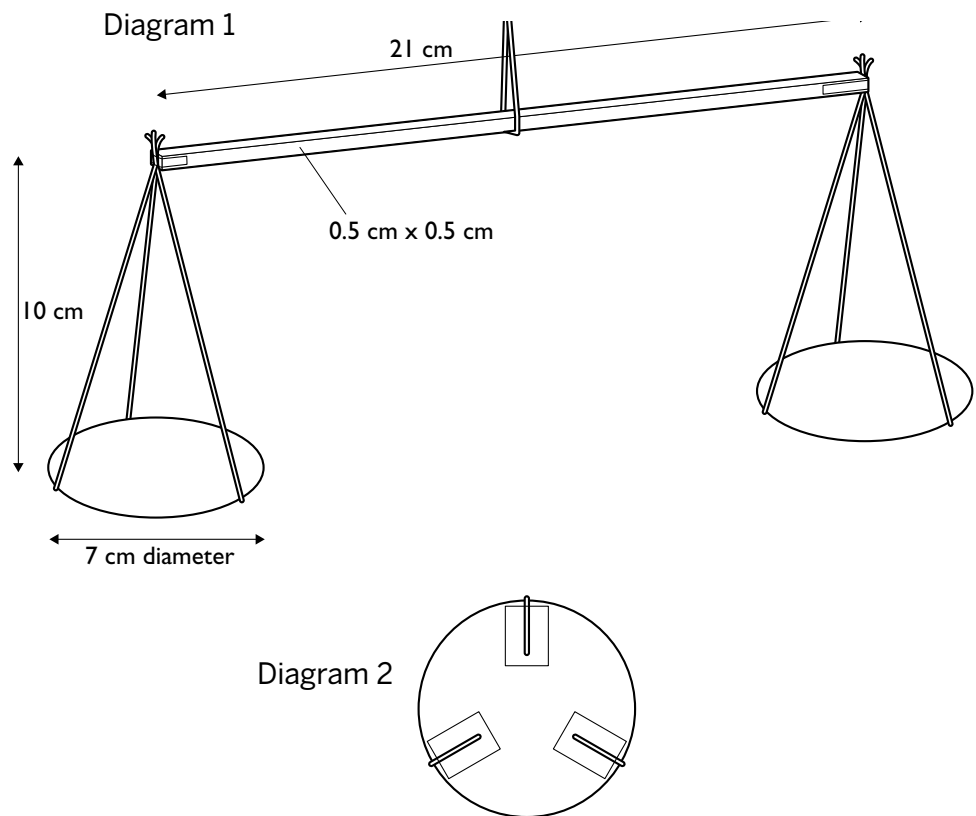


Make some Viking scales

Vikings used scales to weigh silver when they traded. Here is how to make a simple pair of scales.

1. Take a piece of wood 21 cm long and half a centimetre wide and tall in cross section. Find the mid point and use a small saw to cut a shallow groove in one side.
2. Cut six 10 cm lengths of string and arrange into two groups of three.
3. Cut two discs of card which are 7 cm in diameter.
4. Take one group of strings and stick 1 cm lengths of their ends to a card disc as diagram 2 shows.
5. Repeat step 4 with the second set of strings.
6. Take one group of strings and bring their other ends together and stick to one end of the piece of wood as seen on the left in diagram 1.
7. Repeat step 6 with the other set of strings and stick them to the other end of the piece of wood.
8. Cut a length of string about 40 cm long and tie it in a loop.
9. Put the loop over one end of the piece of wood and move it to the groove.
10. Make sure part of the string is in the groove then raise the loop and this should raise the scales. They should balance with the piece of wood resting horizontally.



Make some Viking scales

Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5) with help.
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources

Copies of the worksheet. Piece of card, scissors, pair of compasses, pencils, string, ruler, pieces of wood 21cm long and about half a centimetre square in cross section, sticky paper.

Using the worksheet

You may like to consider the aspect of trade in the context of town life. This activity and 9B can be used to look at how Vikings traded. This activity might be used as part of a CDT project while this one and the next activity might be used as part of a maths project. Make sure that you follow your employer's guidelines with regard to using small saws with students, or prepare the pieces of wood yourself.

Younger students

Some students may need a lot of help with this activity. The pieces of wood, card discs and lengths of string may be best prepared before the activity so that the students simply assemble the scales. It may be useful to have as many classroom helpers as possible present to supervise and guide the work. Alternatively you could make one as a demonstration.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Know that a pair of scales must balance when empty if it is to be useful.
- Use simple equipment and materials, with help, safely.

Older students

The students can work in pairs to make scales. Some students may need assistance. Some students may prefer to use yoghurt pot lids instead of card discs. The lip of the lids helps to keep objects in place. This decision may be arrived at by discussion on the design of the scales. Make sure the students are competent to use compasses safely.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Follow instructions.
- Use simple equipment and materials safely.
- Consider aspects of design in making a product.