

Watermelon Lesson Plan



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The Task

A giant watermelon weighed 100 pounds and was 99 percent water. While sitting in the sun, some of the water evaporated. Now, the watermelon is only 98 percent water. How much does the watermelon weigh now?

Materials

- The Task
- Calculators
- Grid Paper
- Poster Paper (one sheet per group)

Facilitating Task

- Launch the task by reading it aloud.
- Clarify the task as needed by asking students to retell the story and identify what's known and unknown.
- Provide individual think time, so students can process and begin solving.
- Small groups (4 students maximum) compare strategies and solutions. After reaching consensus, small groups record solution and justification on Poster Paper.
- Each group shares their solution and justification.
- The teacher asks questions to support students in connecting the strategies shared and the mathematical ideas highlighted.

Misconceptions

- Students might use an additive approach instead of multiplicative reasoning. For example, students might reason that since 1% of the water is lost, then 1 pound of water is lost.
- Students might have difficulty figuring out that the stuff other than water remains constant. In other words, the weight of the stuff other than water stays the same.

Suggested Prompts or Questions

- How is this problem similar to other problems you might have solved?
- What's staying the same and what's changing?
- What percent is not water? How much does the stuff that is not water weigh?