Comparing Weights of Objects

In this activity, the crew compares the weights of various objects. Keep them with the same partners they had in the last activity.

Pass out 10 pennies, about 40 beans, 30 large paper clips, 30 small paper clips and 5 marbles to each pair. Have play pennies available for comparison also. The goal of the activity is to compare the weights of the items and rank them from lightest to heaviest.

To do the ranking, they will compare the weights of all the different objects to the weights of 5 pennies. For example, if they place 5 pennies in one cup, they will need to add some number of beans to the other cup to balance the pennies—more than five beans. Clearly the pennies are a lot heavier than the beans. In this case, they would write, “weight of 5 pennies = weight of the # of beans” in their journals.

Now, the partners could keep the 5 pennies in one cup and start comparing them to play pennies in the other cup. It takes about 14 play pennies to equal the weight of 5 pennies. They would write in their journals, “weight of 5 pennies = weight of 14 play pennies” in their journals. Make a class table on the board to display the data.

After comparing the weights of pennies with all the other objects, have them rank the objects in their journals from lightest to heaviest.

MATERIALS:
- Marbles
- Pennies
- Play pennies
- Beans
- Large paper clips
- Small paper clips

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