

Hanger Balance

Key Vocabulary

heavy, light, heavier than, lighter than, weigh, larger / smaller,
balance scales

You will need:

- a hanger
- string
- yoghurt cups / ricotta containers / butter tubs
- objects to be weighed



The Activity

1. Make holes on the edges of the cups / containers / tubs and then put the string through the holes. Before tying make sure the lengths are even.
2. Then tie to a hanger and the students can use them to move around the room balancing and weighing to their heart's desire.

Extension and Differentiation

- An excellent discussion to have is: ‘How does an object's size affect its weight? Does bigger always mean heavier?’



- You can pull out several objects specifically for this conversation--a feather, a marble, a beach ball and a tennis ball. First, ask the students, ‘Which ones are bigger?’ Both the feather and the beach ball are bigger.
- Then ask, ‘Which ones are heavier?’ The marble is heavier than the feather even though the marble is smaller. And the beach ball is much lighter than baseball.
- Why? Most students will quickly realize that the beach ball is full of air, and air is very light.
- After some discussion, tell the students that the more "stuff" (or matter/particles) is inside of a given area, the more it will weigh, thus they will see that **size and weight are not always related and that big objects can sometimes be lighter than smaller objects and vice versa.**