

Diagnostic TASK

FOCUS

Understanding Units

- Key Understandings 3, 4

Direct Measure

- Key Understanding 3

Leaf Task

Year 4–7

Purpose

To reveal if the student:

- understands the attribute of area
- can use units to measure the area of the leaf
- considers the gaps and overlaps when using units.

Materials

A copy of the Leaf Task sheet

A variety of materials: small and large blocks, pattern blocks, grid paper, counters, cotton balls, paper clips, buttons, unifix cubes, centicubes, pasta, bread tags, bottle tops, etc.

Procedure

Individual interview

Interviews are appropriate for younger students or for students whom teachers consider may be at risk.

Provide a copy of the Leaf task sheet and a mixture of materials in one container.

Ask the child: *Can you please use the materials to work out the area of the leaf?*

Note whether the child attends to the gaps between the units. Ask all students to explain their thinking: *Does it matter if you have gaps between your units? Why?*

Note whether the child attempts to keep the units within the leaf outline. Ask all students to explain their thinking: *Does it matter if you have some units overlapping the edge of the leaf? Why?*

Small group

This task may be conducted with a small group, using the instructions above. Take note of which children attend to the gaps and overlaps and then ask them to explain their thinking.

Leaf Task

Name _____ Year _____ Date _____

Measure the area of the leaf and show or explain how you did it.

