

Make a Balance Scale

The storekeeper weighed the amount each customer wanted on a scale. Here's how to make a simple scale.

You'll need:

- A metal skewer or nail
- 2 small yogurt containers
- 6 strings 25 cm (10 inches) long
- a coat hanger
- tape
- pennies for weights
- sugar

1. Punch three holes about 0.5 cm (1/4 inch) down from the rims of both yogurt containers.

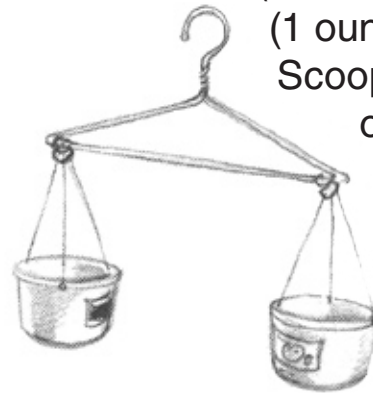


2. Thread one string through each hole and tie the ends.

3. Tie one yogurt container onto each end of the hanger. Use tape to keep the string from sliding. Hang the hanger in a spot where the containers can hang free.



4. Make a set of weights out of pennies. Use a kitchen scale to measure 7 g (1/4 ounce), 14 g (1/2 ounce) and 28 g (1 ounce) of pennies.



Scoop some sugar into one container. Add pennies to the second container until the scale balances. How many pennies did you use?

How much, then, does your sugar weigh? This is how early storekeepers weighed their goods.

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