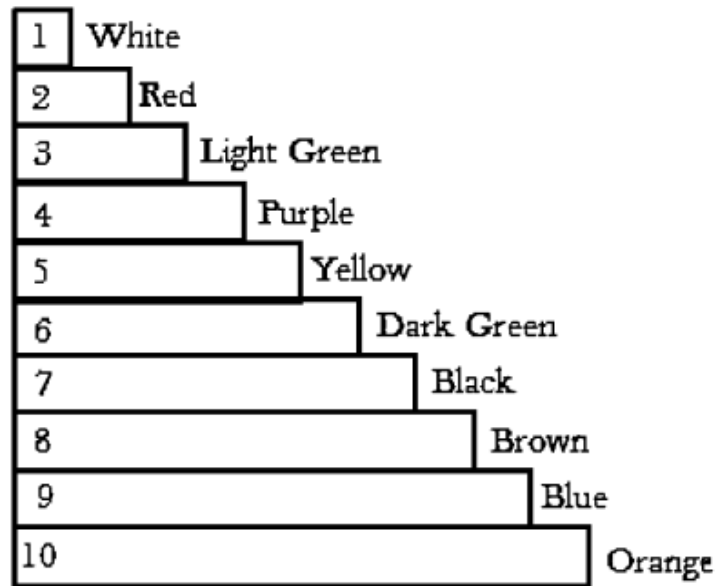


Overview of Cuisenaire Rods Manipulative

Cuisenaire rods are length models used to teach various mathematics concepts. The lengths are color coded according to their length in centimeters (see image below). Thus, all white rods are 1cm long, all red rods are 2cm long, and so forth.



Since Cuisenaire rods do not have individual units marked on the rods, teachers can assign any length to a rod and have students determine the length of other rods by comparison. For example, if a teacher states that a dark green rod is 1 long, they can ask students to find the rod that is $\frac{1}{2}$ (light green), $\frac{1}{3}$ (red), etc. This versatility makes Cuisenaire rods ideal for teaching several topics in mathematics.

Description of Dot and Length Array Activity

The attached 6 by 13 array includes 78 one-centimeter dots arranged in such a way that Cuisenaire rods can be laid overtop to match precisely. For the recorded activity, students are tasked with putting only TWO color rods on the array. For example, a student could put six 10cm rods and six 3cm rods to model $6 \times 13 = (6 \times 10) + (6 \times 3)$. The recorded activity makes this connection informally, so that students may construct various multiplication facts with the Distributive Property in a meaningful manner.

