

1

Say it first, then check

Ask how many days the school camp lasts, or how many days until the holidays, take a few answers and then count it out on the class calendar in front of everyone. Compare what was said to what the calendar shows before anyone moves on.

"You said about four days. Was it longer or shorter than that?"

"What would you say next time?"

2

One square for every day

Rule a strip of squares across the whiteboard, one square for every day, and number the squares 1, 2, 3 and so on as you go. Colour in the days that one event filled, then rule a second strip underneath it for a second event, starting both strips at the same line down the left. The worked example at the back of this document shows what the board should look like, and the page after it is the same thing blank, which can be printed at A3 and put up instead of drawn.

"This row is camp and this one is book week. Which one lasted longer?"

"How many days longer was it?"

Every square has to be one day for both events, or the two rows are about the drawing rather than the events.

3

Starting first is not lasting longer

Rub out the two coloured rows and do them again the way the events actually happened, with one event starting several squares along the strip rather than at the line, and ask which lasted longer. Then colour both of them again from the line and ask again. The second page of the worked example shows the staggered version.

"Which one started first? Which one lasted longer?"

"Now both rows start at the same place. Has your answer changed?"

Where an event starts says nothing about how long it lasts.

Print one set and cut along the dashed lines. The first activity needs one event. The second and third need two events that ran for clearly different numbers of days. The next page is blank cards for events of your own.

school camp

book week

the school holidays

swimming lessons

growing a bean plant from seed

write your own event

write your own event

write your own event

write your own event

write your own event

write your own event

What the board looks like

Both strips start at the same line, so the rows can be compared.

camp

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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book week

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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The same two events, the way they happened

Book week started later. It still lasted longer.

camp

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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book week

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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Blank strips

Print at A3 and put up, or copy onto the whiteboard.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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