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One Saturday afternoon, Larry the lifeguard announces a competition. The kids race to see who can build the tallest tower, the deepest moat, and the longest wall.

Ages: 5 to 10 years

Interest Level:

Kindergarten to 5th Grade

ATOS Reading Level:

2.3

Lexile: 410L

ISBN:

9780064467209

Copyright: 1999

Genre: Fiction

Classification:

Picture Story Book



Super Sand Castle Saturday

As the tide comes in, who will build the tallest tower, the deepest moat, and the longest wall?

Topics: measuring, formal measurement, informal measurement, length & distance, comparing

Math Connections: Use the book *Super Sand Castle Saturday* to explore measurement. Compare the difference in size between an adult's foot and a child's foot. Talk about why measuring an object using different people's feet will produce different results because human feet aren't a consistent size.

If your child hasn't measured an object before, show them how and practice measuring a variety of objects together. Find out how many paper clips can be placed end to end across a sheet of paper. Figure out how many pens will fit across the length of a table. Measure the same object with different measuring tools, like the length of a spoon, the width of a hand, and a ruler. Think of situations where using an informal measuring tool, like the length of your foot or the length of a shovel, would be very useful.

Explore formal measuring tools like rulers, measuring tapes, yardsticks, and meter sticks. Talk about how these are different than informal tools that don't have a standard length. Find out when it would be more convenient to use a ruler than a yardstick. Talk about units of measurement - for example, a person might measure small objects in inches, larger objects in feet, and long distances in miles. Discuss why it would make sense to measure the distance a car travels in an hour with miles, but measure the length of your finger in inches.

After reading *Super Sand Castle Saturday*, have your child pick three items to measure and let them experiment with different measuring tools. Measure the items different ways. Compare the measurements. For example, your child may discover that a couch is 60 inches long using a measuring tape, 9 forks long, and 3 chairs wide.

Extension Questions:

1. Why do you think people created rulers and yardsticks?
2. Look at the page on which Juan and Laura are digging their moats. Which moat looks deeper in the picture on the left? Which moat looks deeper on the page on the right?
3. Who do you think built the tallest sand castle? Why do you think this person's sand castle is tallest?

EARLY MATH PROJECT LITERATURE REVIEW

Vocabulary for Building Math Concepts	deepest, five, inch(es), longest, measure, more, nearby, one, seven, size, tallest, three, two, up
Vocabulary for Extending Math Concepts	distance, length, unit of measurement
Vocabulary for Reading Comprehension	contest, lifeguard, moaned, moat

Spanish Title: *Sábado de súper castillos*

Also available in:
Braille

Related Books: *Twelve Snails to One Lizard* by Susan Hightower, *How Tall?* by Mark Weakland, *How Tall, How Short, How Faraway* by David A. Adler, *Actual Size* by Steve Jenkins

Find this book at your local library: <https://www.worldcat.org/title/super-sand-castle-saturday/oclc/927484135?referer=di&ht=edition>

Early Math Project Resources:

[Building Castles](#) (English)

[Construyendo Castillos](#) (Spanish)

[Measuring Units](#) (English)

[Unidades de Medida](#) (Spanish)

Online Resources:

[Super Sand Castle Saturday Measuring Activity](#) Standard Units and Comparison Activity

Age Level	Related Preschool Foundations and CA State Standards
Infant/ Toddler	Not applicable
Preschool/ TK	Measurement 1.0 Children expand their understanding of comparing, ordering, and measuring objects.
Kindergarten	Measurement and Data K.MD.1 Describe and compare measurable attributes.
Grade 1	Measurement and Data 1.MD.1 Measure lengths indirectly and by iterating length units.
Grade 2	Measurement and Data 2.MD.1 Measure and estimate lengths in standard units.

