

Student Guide

Which Picks Up More? (SG pp. 102–103)


Questions 1–4

- 1.\* The brand of paper towel that picks up the most water will be the better “picker upper.”
2. **A.** Answers will vary. The sheets may differ in size and thickness.  
**B.\*** Predictions will vary.
3. Probably not.
4. **A.\*** Answers will vary. He could measure the length and/or width of the spot. He could cut the spot out, trace it on cm grid paper, and find the area by counting square centimeters.  
**B.\*** area

**Which Picks Up More?**

**Professor Peabody Searches for the Better “Picker Upper”**

While working in his lab, Professor Peabody knocked over a graduated cylinder filled with water. He grabbed a roll of paper towels and used several sheets to clean up the spill. Professor Peabody thought, “These paper towels don’t soak up very much water. The brand I use at home works better.”



Professor Peabody decided to investigate different brands of paper towels to find the one that picks up the most water. He wants to find the better “picker upper.”

**Discuss**

1. What does it mean to be the better “picker upper”?

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The next day Professor Peabody brought two different brands of paper towels to the lab. He wanted to compare these two with the roll he had in his lab. He tore off one sheet from each roll and compared them.

2. Your teacher has three different brands of paper towels. Look carefully at each brand of paper towel. Compare the three brands.
  - A. How are they alike? How are they different?
  - B. Which do you think will pick up the most water? Show or tell how you decided.

Professor Peabody investigated further by dropping 5 drops of water on a sheet of each brand of paper towel.

3. Will the spots be the same size?
4. **A.** How can he measure the size of the spots?  
**B.** Which variable will give the best measure of the size: length, width, or area?



Professor Peabody used the TIMS Laboratory Method to find which paper towel picks up the most water. You will do a similar experiment.

Use *The Better “Picker Upper” Lab* pages in the *Student Activity Book* to compare different brands of paper towels to determine which picks up the most water.

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\*Answers and/or discussion are included in the lesson.