

Thermometer Scale

There are different ways in which negative numbers can be introduced, but reference to a thermometer scale is undoubtedly the most practical way for most. And this large ‘pin-up’ for the classroom wall could help with the initial introduction.

The complete scale offered here runs from -32 to 32 and has an assembled height of nearly 3 metres (*almost 10 ft*). Obviously, not all of it need be used.

It is probably obvious how the whole thing is assembled. The required number of pages (from the 11 available) are printed out. The top of each one is trimmed off along the dotted line, and the pages are laid out in order. Some glue is put on the back at the top of a page and it is glued to the bottom of the one above it, using the dotted line on that one as a guide to position.

Do keep an eye on the alignment during the assembling process. It is all too easy to produce a curved scale. Use the edge of the working surface to keep one edge of the consecutive sheets of paper straight. Make sure the two edges of the scale meet as exactly as possible. Because of irregularities in the printing the outer edges of the paper might not meet exactly. These discontinuities are best dealt with by a little ‘local’ trimming afterwards. The ‘half marks’ at the join of the sheets may need going over with a black marker.

Red has been used. Whilst it is by no means essential, it does make the ‘thermometer stem’ look much more attractive (it is rather overpowering when done completely in black) and lends emphasis to the negative numbers. While everyone will not have a colour printer, it might be worth trying to get access to one for a one-off.

Our thanks are due to Pam Ruddock of
The Glasgow Academy
for suggesting this in the first place.



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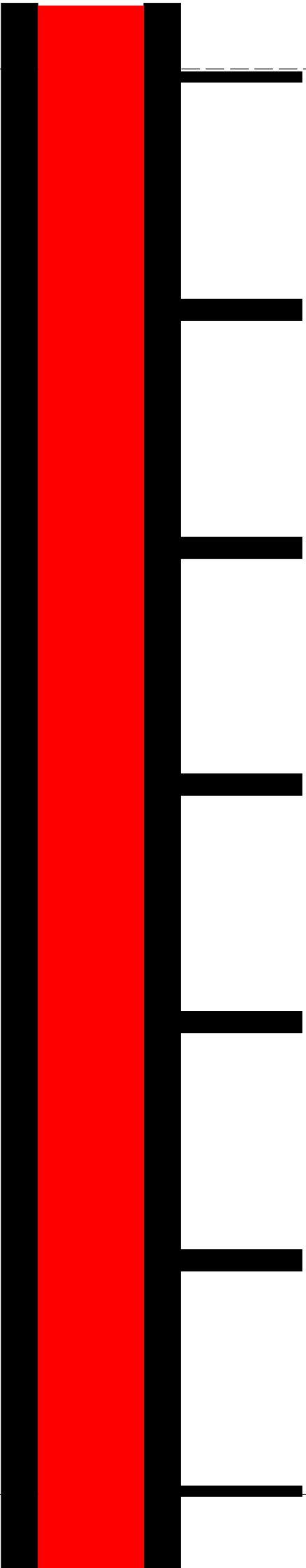
16



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12

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