St Michael and All Angels parent's guide to

Fractions

What you need

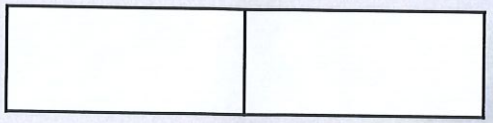
Maths Equipment

In this guide we use bar models to help children visualise how to find a fraction of an amount.

Bar models can be drawn on a mini whiteboard or paper or you may prefer to give your child ready-made bar models.

Bar models

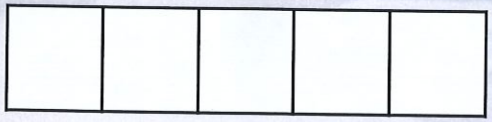
Halves



Thirds

Quarters

Fifths

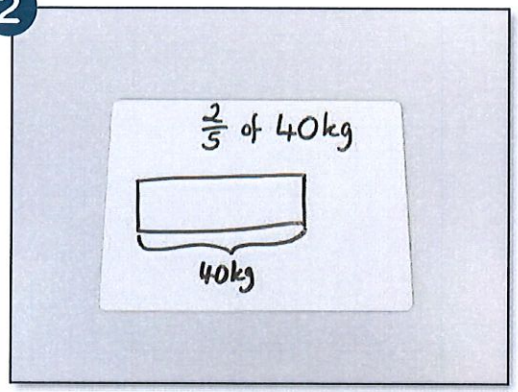


1

$\frac{2}{5}$ of 40kg

We are going to work out $\frac{2}{5}$ of 40 kg

2

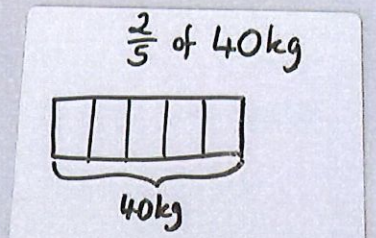


Ask your child what the whole is. That's right, it's 40 kg. Get them to draw a bar (or rectangle) and label it 40 kg to show the whole.

3

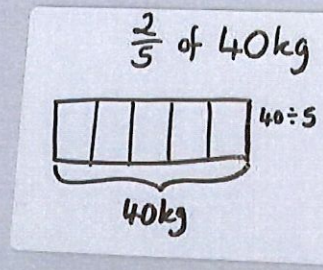
Ask, "How many parts should we spilt the bar into?". We are finding two-fifths so we should split the bar into 5 equal parts.

4



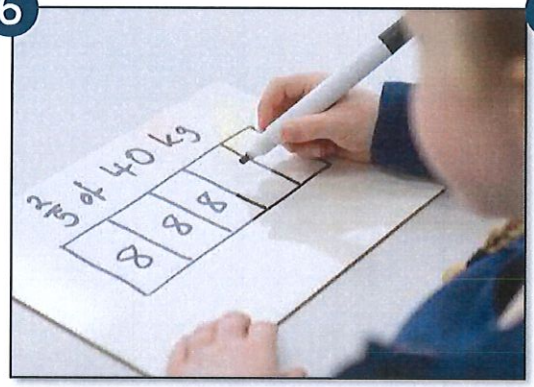
Ask your child to explain how the bar model represents the question.

5



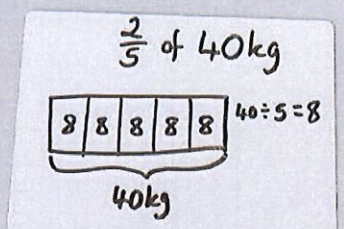
Ask, "How can we work out the value of each box?". The whole is worth 40 and there are 5 equal parts so we should do 40 ÷ 5

6



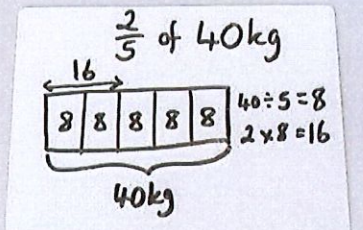
40 ÷ 5 = 8 so ask your child to write 8 in each part. Remember this stands for 8 kg, therefore $\frac{1}{5}$ of the whole is equal to 8 kg.

7



Ask "If we know that $\frac{1}{5}$ of 40 kg is equal to 8 kg, how can we find $\frac{2}{5}$ of 40 kg?"

8



That's right, to find $\frac{2}{5}$ we need to find the total value of 2 of the parts. 2 × 8 kg = 16 kg therefore $\frac{2}{5}$ of 40 kg = 16 kg.

Now Try These

$\frac{3}{5}$ of 20 cm

$\frac{3}{4}$ of 20 cm

$\frac{2}{3}$ of 36 kg

$\frac{5}{6}$ of £120

Remember to write down all the steps in your calculation too.

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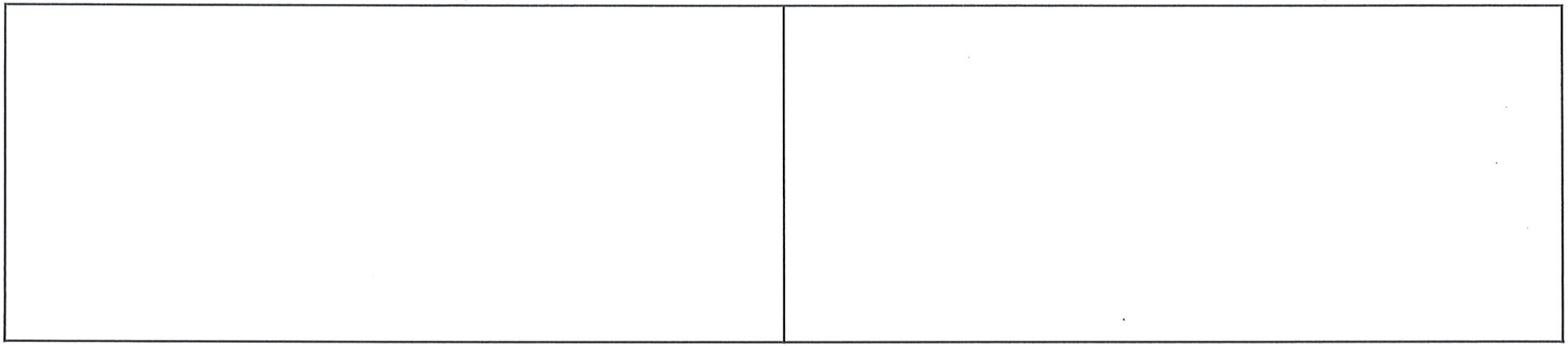
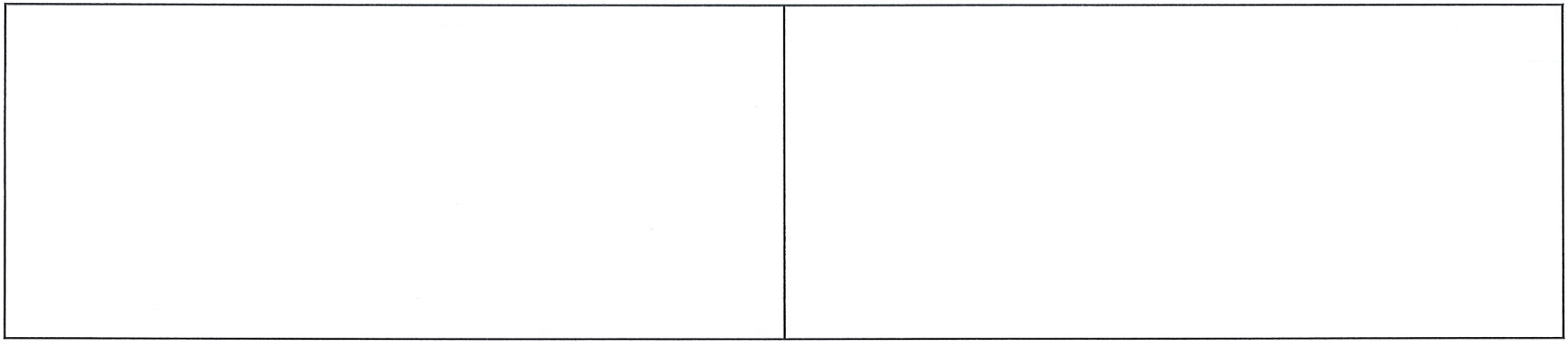
Printouts – Bar Models





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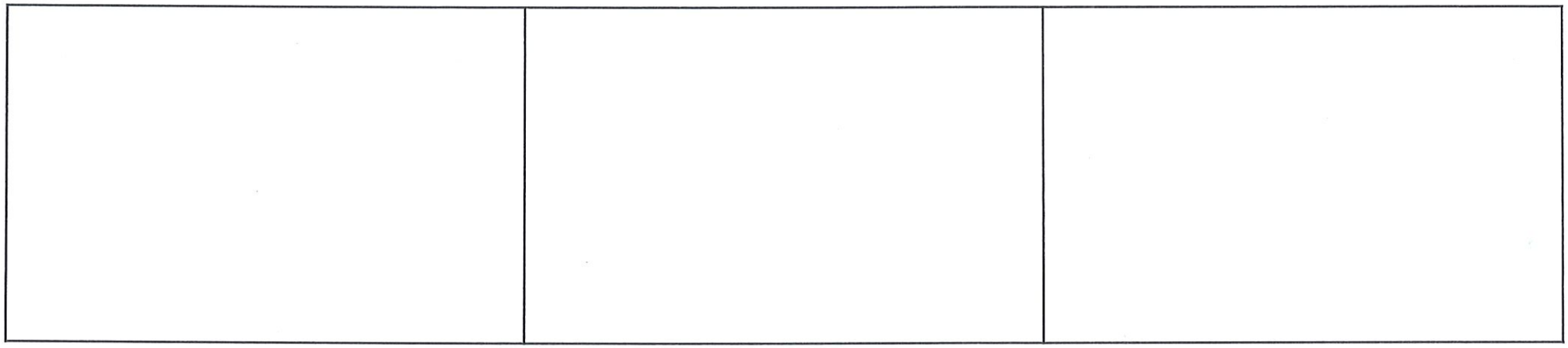

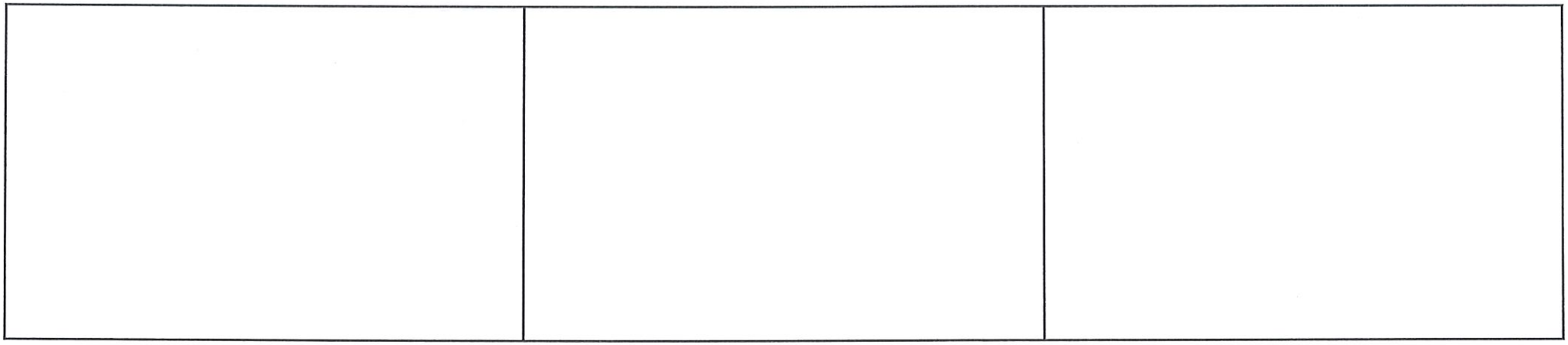

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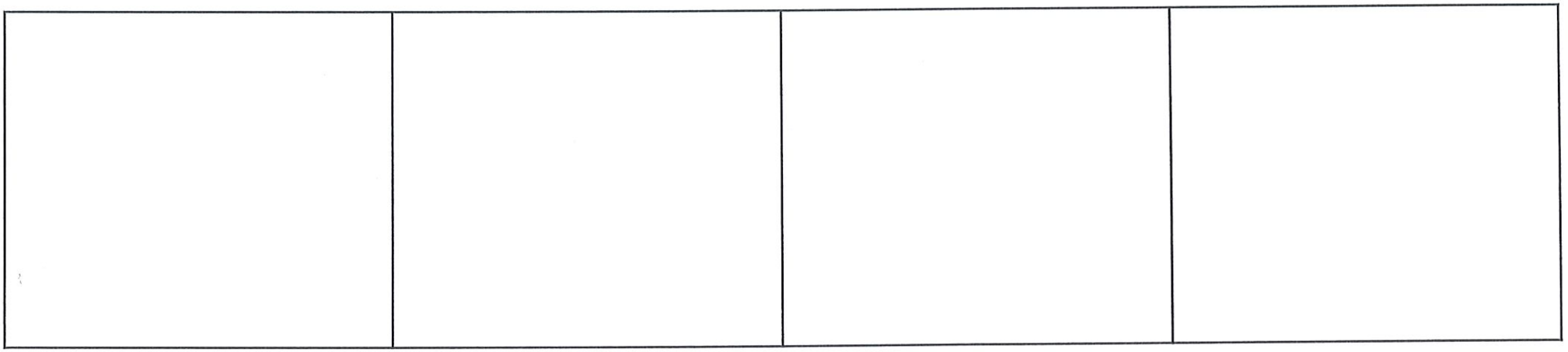

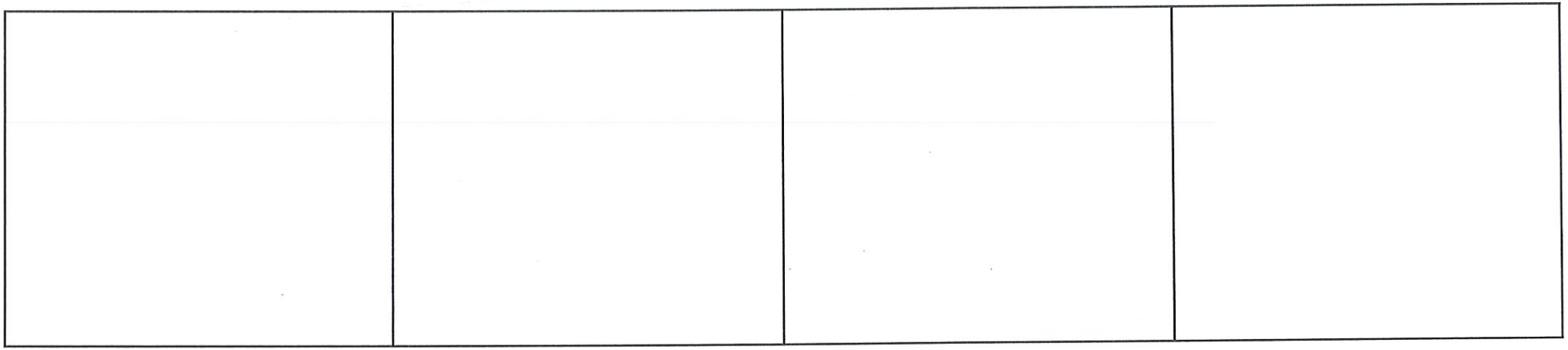

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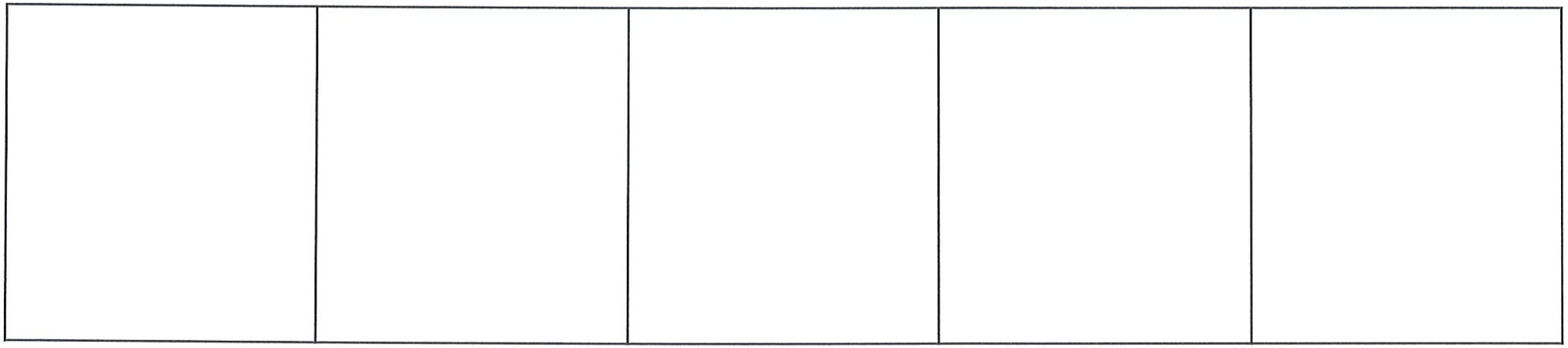

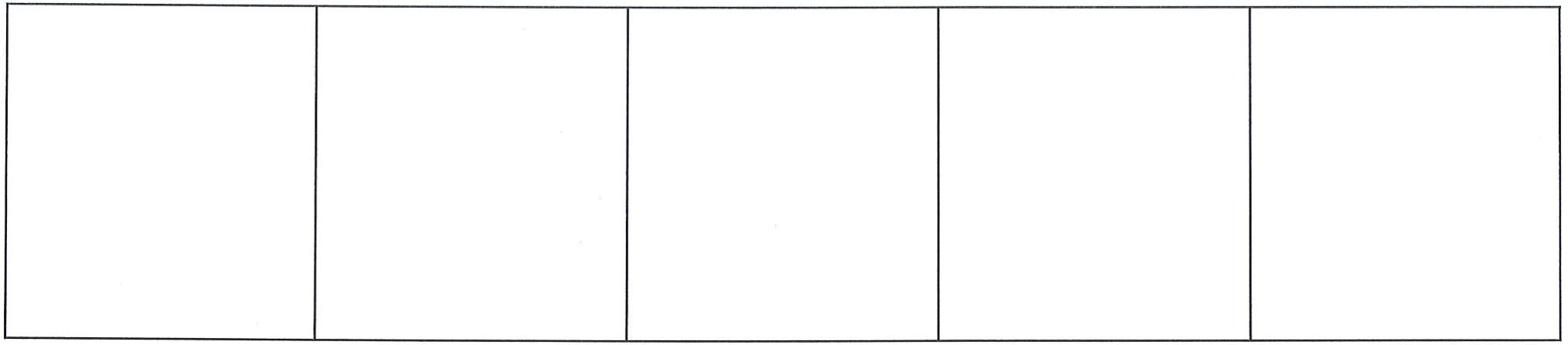

Printouts – Bar Models