



1 vs 1,000,000

Help students understand just how many 1,000,000 is.

- You could use math counters or graphing paper.
- We suggest discussing this:
- M&Ms –
 - Show the size of 1 M&M.
 - Instruct students to guess how many M&Ms can fit into a gallon jug (think milk jug) or a large garbage can in the lunchroom.
 - A gallon jug can hold roughly 4,047 M&Ms, so it would take 247 gallons jugs to hold 1,000,000 M&Ms.
 - Most large garbage cans in a school cafeteria hold 45-55 gallons of M&Ms, so it would take about 5 ½ lunchroom garbage cans to hold 1,000,000 M&Ms!

Now consider how small of a mark the 1mm line was on your paper. Hold your pointer finger and thumb like this picture



Now decrease the size of the hole until it is the smallest hole you can make that still has light coming through. That is about 1mm in diameter, just like the optic nerve! Now imagine 1,000,000 nerve fibers going through that hole. They must be tiny to fit into that space!!