How do we show values are equal?
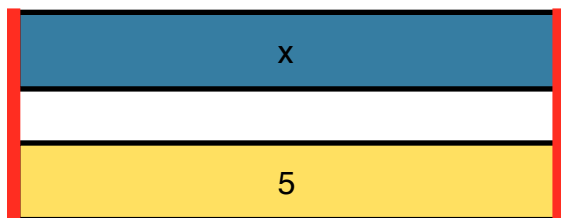
Imagine that you have been told that x = 5. How could we show this information with blocks?

| x | = | 5 |

In the above model the equals sign show that the two blocks are equal. However, it's hard to really *see* they are equal. What if instead we use the *length* of the blocks to show equality?

x
5

Now we can see that these two blocks are the exact same length! This indicates that in this example x and 5 are equal.

Units

If both x and 5 are counting the same thing, say the number of cows, then this equality makes sense. But what if x is counting cows and 5 is counting shoes

5 cows aren't the same as 5 shoes!

Make sure that when you show equality, you are always comparing the same type of things. Both bars need to have the same **units**.