

Metric Measurement of Length

Name:

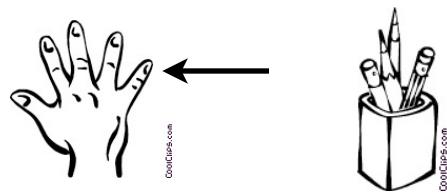
Period:

You are probably used to measuring how long things are with inches, feet, yards, and miles. Pretty much the entire rest of the world uses a different measuring system called the metric system. With the metric system, distances are measured in millimeters, centimeters, meters, and kilometers. The advantage of the metric system (besides the fact that almost everyone uses it) is that it is very easy to convert from one measurement to another. This is done by multiplying or dividing by 10, 100, or 1000. This quick exercise should help you remember the approximate sizes of metric units of length.

kilometer (km)—about as far as you can walk in 15 minutes -or- 3 times around the track for PE



centimeter (cm)—about as wide as your pinky -or- about as thick as a pencil



meter (m)—about as wide as a door



millimeter (mm)—about as thick as a dime -or- as wide as a pencil or pen mark on paper



For each object listed below, write the **abbreviation** for the unit that would be best to use to measure it.

_____ the thickness of a textbook

_____ the width of your shoe

_____ the length of your pencil

_____ the height of your desk

_____ the length of your science classroom

_____ the distance from Salinas to Arizona

_____ the length of this handout

_____ the height of the flagpole in front of school

_____ the thickness of a penny

_____ the length of an ant

_____ the distance from Earth to the Moon

_____ the distance from your science classroom to the cafeteria