

The Metric System

What is it?

The Metric System is a measuring system used by scientists around the world. For this reason, it is also referred to as the Systeme Internationale, or International System of Units (SI). The Metric System is based on the number 10.

Why measure in metric?

- It is the system of measurement used by scientists throughout the world.
- The Metric System is based on 10. Each unit is 10 times larger or smaller than the next.
- Once you learn and practice the metric system, it is easier to use than the standard English system.
- There are fewer units and the units are interchangeable.
- There are no fractions!
- Most countries in the world, except the United States, Liberia, and Myanmar use metric.

Test Your Metric Knowledge (circle the correct answer)

1. What metric measure would you use to measure the length of a pencil?
gram, Celsius, liter, centimeter
2. When weighing a moose, which metric measure would you use?
kilograms, meters, Celsius, liters
3. If the temperature outside is 35°C, what would you most likely be doing? cross country skiing, ice skating, swimming, hiking
4. Which is the shortest distance?
23 kilometers, 24 meters, 25 centimeters, 26 millimeters
5. If you were buying juice measured in a metric sized can, what metric measure would be used? kilometers, liters, Celsius, ton
6. What is the metric measure used for snow skis?
millimeters, centimeters, liters, grams
7. At birth, which of these babies might weigh 3 kilograms?
moose, elephant, flea, human
8. Which of these is about the same size as a liter?
gallon, quart, ounce, inch
9. About how much does a paper clip weigh?
1 kilogram, 1 liter, 1 gram, 1 meter
10. Which one of these measures is about the width of an average doorway? meter, kilometer, gram, Celsius