

Activity 03-06 Measuring with a Small Stick - Using a Ruler to Measure in Meters

When measuring length, width, height, depth, and distance, the appropriate SI base unit is the meter. When using the meter stick, the tool for measuring in meters, it is relatively easy to determine how many meters, decimeters, centimeters, and millimeters long an object is. How does that transfer to using a more common instrument of measuring - the ruler?

Be sure to measure as accurately and precisely as possible. Record all of your answers using the following system:

___ meters + ___ decimeters + ___ centimeters + ___ millimeters + ___ white space

1. Using a ruler, measure the length of your table. ___ meters + ___ decimeters + ___ centimeters + ___ millimeters + ___ white space
2. Using a ruler, measure the length of a sheet of printer paper. ___ meters + ___ decimeters + ___ centimeters + ___ millimeters + ___ white space
3. Using a ruler, measure the width of a sheet of printer paper. ___ meters + ___ decimeters + ___ centimeters + ___ millimeters + ___ white space
4. Using a ruler, measure the width of a standard pencil. ___ meters + ___ decimeters + ___ centimeters + ___ millimeters + ___ white space
5. Using a ruler, measure the length of the poster. ___ meters + ___ decimeters + ___ centimeters + ___ millimeters + ___ white space
6. Using a ruler, measure the width of the poster. ___ meters + ___ decimeters + ___ centimeters + ___ millimeters + ___ white space
7. Using a ruler, measure the width of an index card. ___ meters + ___ decimeters + ___ centimeters + ___ millimeters + ___ white space
8. Using a ruler, measure the length of an index card. ___ meters + ___ decimeters + ___ centimeters + ___ millimeters + ___ white space

Record your answers in meters and centimeters. If there is time, check your answers using the meter stick.

	meters (m)	centimeters (cm)
Length of a sheet of printer paper		
Width of a sheet of printer paper		
Length of the poster		
Width of the poster		
Width of an index card		
Length of an index card		
Width of a standard pencil		
Length of the table		