MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Centimetres, metres, and kilometres

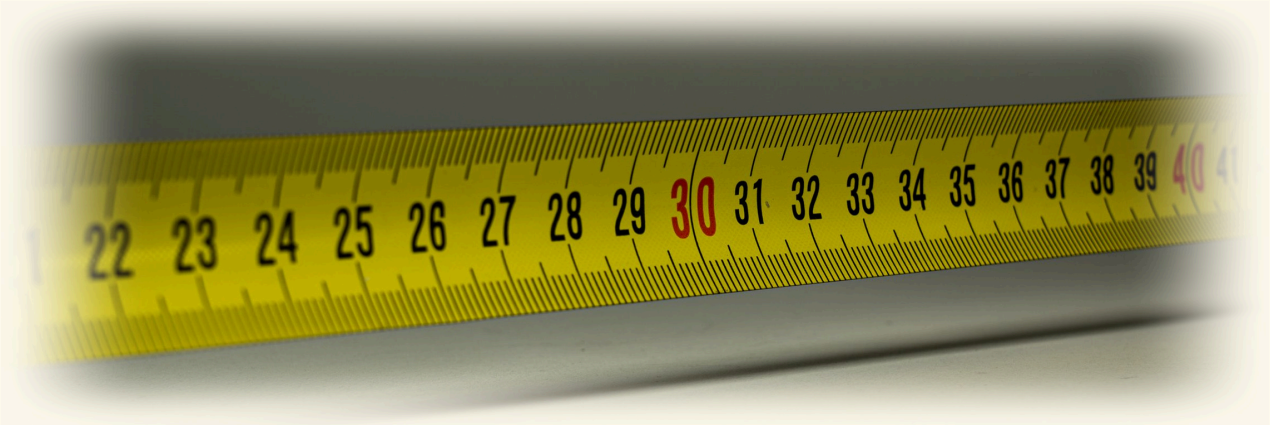
Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you pick the right unit for the job. Centimetres suit a pencil, metres suit a room, and kilometres suit the drive between two towns. Using the right unit keeps your numbers sensible, because saying a room is 400 centimetres long is technically right but nobody talks that way.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q A ribbon is 3 metres long. How many centimetres is that?

SOLUTION

This is a bigger-unit-to-smaller-unit conversion: 1 metre = 100 centimetres.

3 metres = 3 × 100 centimetres

So the ribbon is 300 centimetres long.

EXAMPLE 2

Q A road is 2 kilometres long. How many metres is that?

SOLUTION

1 kilometre = 1,000 metres

2 kilometres = 2 × 1,000 metres

So the road is 2,000 metres long.

Practice questions

1 How many centimetres are in 2 metres?

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2 How many metres are in 3 kilometres?

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3 How many centimetres are in half a metre?

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4 How many metres are in half a kilometre?

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5 **Which unit would you use to measure a pencil?**

A Centimetres

B Metres

C Kilometres

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6 **Which unit would you use to measure the distance between two towns?**

A Centimetres

B Metres

C Kilometres

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7 **Convert 400 centimetres to metres.**

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8 **Convert 5000 metres to kilometres.**

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9 **Which is longer?**

A 6 metres

B 500 centimetres

C They are the same length

D You cannot tell

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10 **A desk is 1 metre 20 centimetres long. How many centimetres is that?**

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ANSWER KEY

1. 200 cm

2. 3000 m

3. 50 cm

4. 500 m

5. Centimetres

6. Kilometres

7. 4 m

8. 5 km

9. 6 metres

10. 120 cm

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