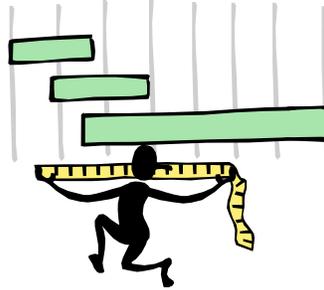


Name: _____

Date: _____

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The Metric System Web Quest



History's Important Dates

<http://lamar.colostate.edu/~hillger/dates.htm>

Examine the following dates and timeline to find out the history behind the metric system.

- 1) Who originated the metric system and when?
- 2) Which U.S. president proposed a decimal-based measurement system for the U.S.?
- 3) When was the metric system made legal in the U.S.? Was this mandatory?
- 4) In your own words, what did the U.S. Metric Study conclude in 1971?
- 5) Before the end of 2009, the US should allow _____.
- 6) Why is it important that we understand and are able to use the metric system?

International Sports

http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/kids/metricfacts.htm

Many of us enjoy the Olympics and can't help but marvel at the athletes' talent. Check out this website and answer the following questions.

- 1) What percentage of the world uses the metric system?
- 2) Approximately how high is 10 meters?
- 3) Approximately how long is 5 kilometers?
- 4) How wide is a balance beam for female gymnasts? What does this compare to?
- 5) Name one more interesting fact about international sports and its use of the metric system.

Let's compare the metric system to the English Customary system

http://www.sciencemadesimple.com/metric_conversion_chart.html

Since we still use the English Customary system in America (as well as the metric), it is important that we understand how the two different systems compare. Answer the following questions keeping in mind a visual of the different measurements.

- 1) Which is longer- a meter or a yard? By how much?
- 2) Which is longer- a kilometer or a mile? By how much?
- 3) Which is longer- a centimeter and an inch? By how much? Hint: An inch is about the size of your thumbnail)

- 4) Which is heavier- a pound or a kilogram? By how much?
- 5) What is one object that weighs about one gram? How about five grams?
- 6) Which would hold more milk- a liter or a quart? By how much?
- 7) Which would hold more water- a teaspoon (tsp) or a milliliter?
- 8) Which is hotter, 30°C or 30°F? How do you know?

Summary of the Metric System

<http://www.unc.edu/~rowlett/units/sipm.html>

Finish completing the chart using the seven base units of the metric system.

<u>SI base unit</u>	<u>Measures</u>	<u>Abbreviation</u>
Meter	Distance	m

Do you think it would be difficult to convert between the English Customary System and the Metric System? For example, if I wanted to know how many grams were in a pound, what would I have to do?