

Length Detectives

Measure and estimate with standard units.

GRADE 2 • 2.MD.A

CCSS.Math.Content.2.MD.A "Measure and estimate lengths in standard units."

NAME _____

DATE _____

CHOOSE THE RIGHT UNIT

Use a ruler to measure small objects in inches or centimeters. Start at 0 and read the number at the other end. Use feet or meters to estimate bigger objects.

WORKED EXAMPLE

A toy drum starts at the 0-inch mark and ends at the 9-inch mark. How long is the drum?

1. The drum begins at 0.
2. The other end is at 9.
3. The drum is 9 inches long.

Answer: 9 inches

PRACTICE 5 problems

- 1** A crayon is about 4 inches long. Which is a better estimate, 4 inches or 4 feet?

ANSWER _____

- 2** A classroom door is about 7 feet tall. Which is a better estimate, 7 feet or 7 inches?

ANSWER _____

- 3** A hamster is about 8 centimeters long. Which is a better estimate, 8 centimeters or 8 meters?

ANSWER _____

- 4** A toy train starts at the 0-inch mark and ends at the 5-inch mark. How long is the train?

ANSWER _____

- 5** A sticker strip starts at the 0-centimeter mark and ends at the 6-centimeter mark. How long is the strip?

ANSWER _____

APPLY IT Show your work

- 1** Leo puts a ruler beside his toy snake. The snake's head is at 0 centimeters, and its tail is at 14 centimeters. How long is the toy snake?

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

- 2** Maya wants a tiny ribbon for her doll. She can choose a ribbon that is 3 centimeters long or 3 meters long. Which ribbon is a better choice?

WORK SPACE

ANSWER _____

CHALLENGE One step up

CHALLENGE

A puppy leash is 5 feet long. Kai says it would be a good length for a pencil. Do you agree? Explain why.

PART 1 • PRACTICE

#	PROBLEM	ANSWER
1	A crayon is about 4 inches long. Which is a better estimate, 4 inches or 4 feet?	4 inches
2	A classroom door is about 7 feet tall. Which is a better estimate, 7 feet or 7 inches?	7 feet
3	A hamster is about 8 centimeters long. Which is a better estimate, 8 centimeters or 8 meters?	8 centimeters
4	A toy train starts at the 0-inch mark and ends at the 5-inch mark. How long is the train?	5 inches
5	A sticker strip starts at the 0-centimeter mark and ends at the 6-centimeter mark. How long is the strip?	6 centimeters

PART 2 • APPLY IT

1. **14 centimeters** Read the ruler number at the toy snake's tail. The toy snake is 14 centimeters long.
2. **3 centimeters** A doll needs a small ribbon. Centimeters are a better unit for a tiny ribbon.

CHALLENGE

No. A pencil is better measured in inches, not feet.

Accept unit abbreviations, such as in., ft, cm, and m. For the challenge, accept any clear explanation that a pencil is much shorter than 5 feet and is better measured in inches.