Pick the Tool

Choose a tool that fits what you measure.

4.GM.2.4 "Choose an appropriate instrument to measure the length of an object to the nearest whole centimeter or quarter inch."

NAME _____ DATE _____

RULER

Use a ruler for a short, straight length. Choose a ruler with marks for the unit you need.

Measure a key's longest edge to the nearest whole centimeter.

FLEXIBLE MEASURING TAPE

Use a flexible measuring tape for a long length or a length that curves. Choose a tape with marks for the unit you need.

Measure a flowerpot's circumference to the nearest quarter inch.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1 SORT, circle RULER or TAPE for each item; for Part 2 PROVE IT, choose two items from different categories and explain how you knew.

1.	Length of a paper clip, nearest whole centimeter	RULER TAPE
2.	Width of a notebook cover, nearest quarter inch	RULER TAPE
3.	Distance across the classroom floor, nearest whole centimeter	RULER TAPE
4.	Length of a crayon, nearest quarter inch	RULER TAPE
5.	Short edge of a sticky note, nearest whole centimeter	RULER TAPE
6.	Distance around a basketball, nearest quarter inch	RULER TAPE
7.	Length of an index card, nearest quarter inch	RULER TAPE
8.	Distance around a person's waist, nearest whole centimeter	RULER TAPE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose two items from different categories and explain how you knew.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

For Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN, write one new measurement task for RULER and one for TAPE; name what to measure and whether to use the nearest whole centimeter or quarter inch.

RULER _____

TAPE _____

CHALLENGE

A ribbon lies in a curve on a desk. Which tool would you use to measure its length to the nearest whole centimeter? Explain why.

ANSWER KEY

Pick the Tool

GRADE 4 · 4.GM.2.4

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Length of a paper clip, nearest whole centimeter	**RULER**	A paper clip has a short, straight length.
2	Width of a notebook cover, nearest quarter inch	**RULER**	The cover's width is short and straight.
3	Distance across the classroom floor, nearest whole centimeter	**TAPE**	This distance is too long for a ruler to measure conveniently.
4	Length of a crayon, nearest quarter inch	**RULER**	A crayon has a short, straight length.
5	Short edge of a sticky note, nearest whole centimeter	**RULER**	The edge is short and straight.
6	Distance around a basketball, nearest quarter inch	**TAPE**	A flexible tape follows the curved path around the ball.
7	Length of an index card, nearest quarter inch	**RULER**	The card's length is short and straight.
8	Distance around a person's waist, nearest whole centimeter	**TAPE**	A flexible tape follows the curved path around the waist.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose two items from different categories and explain how you knew.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **RULER**: Use a ruler to measure the straight edge of an eraser to the nearest whole centimeter.
- **TAPE**: Use a flexible measuring tape to measure around a pumpkin to the nearest quarter inch.

Challenge: I would use a flexible measuring tape because it can follow the ribbon's curve and has centimeter marks.

For Part 2, accept explanations that connect a ruler to a short, straight length or a flexible tape to a long or curved length. For example, item 1 is short and straight, while item 6 requires following a curve.