

Ruler Ready

Estimate, measure and check real lengths.

GRADE 2 • 2.MG.1.b.i

2.MG.1.b.i "Use U.S. Customary units to estimate, measure, and compare the two for reasonableness: the length of an object to the nearest inch, using a ruler;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

Work with an adult. Guess first, measure next, then compare. Talk where asked.

Materials and setup

Bring an inch ruler, a pencil and paper strips A and B, each shorter than 12 inches. An adult prepares two non-whole-inch lengths that round to different inches; avoid exact halfway points.

Prepare a spare strip ending between 4 and 5 inches, closer to 5, for the demonstration. Read each step aloud.

Nearest inch

Start an object at 0 on an inch ruler. Choose the whole-inch mark nearest its far end. If exactly halfway, choose the larger number.

Try it together

An adult measures a spare strip. Its end is between 4 and 5 inches, closer to 5.

Example only

Record	My answer
Estimate	4 inches
Measurement	5 inches

Start at 0. Choose the nearer whole-inch mark. Its length is about 5 inches.

1. Estimate strip A

Look at strip A. Before using the ruler, guess its length in inches. Write your estimate. Write in inches.

2. Measure strip A

Put one end of A at 0 on the inch ruler. Find the nearest whole-inch mark to its other end. Write the length. Write in inches.

3. Check your estimate

Look at your two numbers for A. Were they close? Say how the ruler helped you check your guess.

4. Try strip B

First estimate B. Then measure it to the nearest inch. Write both numbers.

Strip B

Record	My answer
Estimate (inches)	
Measured length (inches)	

5. A ribbon for a card

We want the longer strip for a card. Compare A and B using your measurements. Write A or B. Say how you know.

6. Measure a pencil

Before measuring, estimate this pencil's length. Then use the inch ruler. Record its length to the nearest inch. Were the two numbers close? Tell a partner.

Pencil

Record	My answer
Estimate (inches)	
Measured length (inches)	

7. Fix the start

An adult places strip A at the 1-inch mark. Is the far-end number its length? Move A to 0 and check. Write the correct length.

Teacher notes

Read directions aloud. Use actual objects and a physical ruler; do not measure this PDF. Check each record against the supplied object. Estimates may vary. Prompt a recheck for unlikely answers; do not deduct for a reasonable estimate differing from the measurement.

Task 1

Accept a sensible estimate based on the actual strip; do not require the exact rounded length.

Task 2

The nearest-inch measurement matches the actual strip, with the end aligned at 0.

Task 3

Accept a comparison of the learner's own estimate and measurement. A large difference should prompt checking the unit and starting point.

Task 4

Records an estimate before measuring, then the correct nearest-inch length for B.

Task 5

The letter with the greater measured length. Learner compares their own recorded numbers. Setup gives A and B different nearest-inch lengths; compare those actual measurements.

Task 6

An estimate and a correct nearest-inch measurement for the actual pencil; oral reasonableness check. Look for alignment at 0 and selection of the nearest whole-inch mark.

Task 7

No. Moving the strip to 0 gives the same nearest-inch length as task 2.