

Section 2.3

Estimating Length

Try These

Name a metric unit and an imperial unit you would use to estimate each measurement

- | | | |
|---|-------------|--------|
| i. The height of a tree | meters | yards |
| ii. The width of a book | centimeters | inches |
| iii. The diameter of a golf ball | millimeters | inches |
| iv. The distance from Winnipeg to Vancouver | kilometers | miles |

Notes on Estimating Length

- To estimate a length, you can compare it to a personal referent.
- A referent can be a length or distance that you can easily remember in either metric or imperial units.
- For example, 1 cm is about the width of your little finger. 1 foot is a little longer than your foot.

1. List some Metric referents based on everyday objects

Length	Referent
1 mm	The height of a coin
1 cm	The width of your pinky finger
10 cm	Width of mouse pad on Mac air book
1 m	Height of my bag on wheels

2. List some Imperial referents based on everyday objects

Length	Referent
1 in.	Length of thumb to first knuckle
1 ft	The length of my foot from heel to big toe
1 yd	The height of my bag on wheels

Example (page 47)

- Estimate the length and width of a \$5 bill using an imperial referent and a metric referent

- Solution

A. What referents will you use?

- Imperial: Inch metric: 1 cm and 10 cm

B. What are your estimates

Measurement System	Length	Width
Imperial	About 6 inches	About 3 inches
Metric	About 14 cm	About 7 cm

Activity and Assignment

- Using your referents (metric and imperial) measure the following
 - i. The height of your desk
 - ii. The width of one of the white boards
 - iii. The length and width of your duo-tang
 - iv. The length and width of your textbook
 - v. The length of your pencil/pen
 - vi. The height of the classroom door
 - vii. The width of the classroom window

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