

HISTORY OF MEASUREMENT HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN?

It was the Greeks who developed the "foot" as their fundamental unit of length. Legend has it that this Greek unit was based on an actual measurement of Hercules' foot.

People measured a yard of cloth by the distance between the end of the outstretched arm and their chin

The Romans measured their pace steps, of about 2.5 feet, 1000 double paces formed a mile

Everyone's body was different sizes. This caused confusion in measurement

The French created a standard unit of measurement called the metric system in 1790. This is today's international system of unit for measurement.

HOW DOES THE METRIC SYSTEM WORK?

THINK OF THE METRIC SYSTEM IN TERMS OF TEN. Changing one unit to another for a given measurement means moving the decimal point.

The metric system uses prefixes to indicate units larger or smaller than a given base unit. Each prefix is a multiple of 10

kilo	km	one thousand	1000
hecto	hm	one hundred	100
deka	dam	ten	10
deci	dm	one tenth	0.1• •
centi	cm	one hundredth	0.01
milli	mm	one thousandth	0.0001

1. Centimeter (cm). A finger is about 1 cm wide
2. Millimeter (mm). 1 centimeter=10 millimeters
3. Meter (m). 1 meter=100 centimeters
4. 4. Kilometer (km). 1 kilometer=1,000 meters

Examples of measurement :

1. _____ The height of a bicycle
2. _____ The distance to the moon
3. _____ Length of you pencil
4. _____ Distance between 2 airports
5. _____ Height of an ant
6. _____ Width of a window