Unit 8 · Measuring Length Cheat Sheet

Unit 8 focus: measuring with rulers and choosing tools and units

1 Big Idea

Line up one end with 0 and count the units the object covers. Use small units for short things and big units for long things.

2 Important Vocabulary

length	How long something is from end to end.	the pencil's length is 7 inches
inch	A small customary unit of length, about the length of a paper clip.	a crayon is about 3 inches
centimeter	A small metric unit, about the width of a fingertip.	an eraser is about 5 centimeters
measuring tape	A long tool that bends, used for long or curved lengths.	measure around a pumpkin

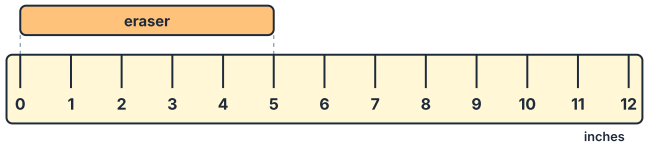
3 How It Works

A crayon starts at the 2 mark and ends at the 8 mark. How long is it?

Example: 2 to 8
Count the spaces: 8 − 2
Length: 6 units

Answer: 6 units

4 Visual Model



The eraser starts at 0 and ends at 5: 5 inches.

5 ★ Remember This · Watch Out!

★ Remember this

- Ruler: 12 inches. Yardstick: 3 feet. Meter stick: 100 centimeters.
- Smaller units give bigger numbers.

⚠ Watch out!

- **Starting at 1:** start at 0, or subtract the start mark
- **Counting tick marks:** count the spaces between them

6 Try It!

1. 2 feet is how many inches?
   Answer: 24 inches
2. Best unit for a car: inches or feet?
   Answer: feet

Answers are printed upside down. Turn the page to check!

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More practice: estimating, comparing lengths and line plots

1 Big Idea

Use benchmarks to estimate. To compare lengths, find the difference in the same unit.

2 Important Vocabulary

estimate	A careful guess.	the desk is about 3 feet long
foot	12 inches. A ruler is 1 foot long.	a book is about 1 foot
meter	100 centimeters. A meter stick is 1 meter long.	a door is about 2 meters tall
line plot	A number line with an X for each measurement.	an X above 6 for each 6-inch pencil

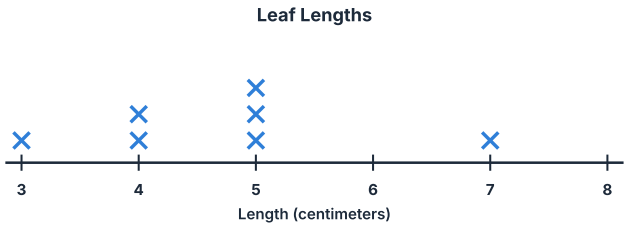
3 How It Works

The blue ribbon is 23 cm. The red ribbon is 15 cm. How much longer is the blue ribbon?

Example: 23 − 15
Same unit: centimeters
Subtract: 23 − 15 = 8

Answer: 8 centimeters

4 Visual Model



Each X is one leaf. Three leaves are 5 cm long.

5 ★ Remember This · Watch Out!

★ Remember this

- Paper clip ≈ 1 inch. Fingertip ≈ 1 cm. Long step ≈ 1 meter.
- Line plot: one X for each measurement.

⚠ Watch out!

- **Different units:** you cannot compare 5 inches and 5 cm by the numbers
- **Adding to compare:** how much longer means subtract

6 Try It!

1. A pencil is 7 paper clips long. About how many inches?
   Answer: about 7 inches
2. 18 in. and 11 in.: how much longer?
   Answer: 7 inches

Answers are printed upside down. Turn the page to check!