

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Length in the Metric System

(pages 102–104)

The basic unit of length in the **metric system** is the **meter**. A centimeter is one-hundredth of a meter. A millimeter is one-thousandth of a meter. A kilometer is a thousand meters.

<b>Choosing a Unit of Length</b>	<p>A millimeter is about the width of the lead in a pencil.</p> <p>A centimeter is about the width of a little fingernail.</p> <p>A meter is about the length of the handle of a broom.</p> <p>A kilometer is about the length of TEN football fields.</p>
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## EXAMPLES

**A** How many meters are in 5 kilometers?  
*One kilometer is 1,000 meters. Two kilometers is  $2 \times 1,000$  or 2,000 meters. There are 5,000 meters in 5 kilometers.*

**B** Use a centimeter ruler to measure the width of a piece of notebook paper.  
*The width is about 21.5 centimeters.*

## Try These Together

1. What unit of length in the metric system would you use to measure the distance across your city or town?

*HINT: What unit is large enough to use for long distances?*

2. What metric unit of length would you use to measure the thickness of a piece of cardboard?

*HINT: Choose a unit that is very small.*

## PRACTICE

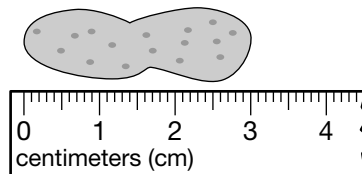
**Write the unit of length: millimeter, centimeter, meter, or kilometer, that you would use to measure each of the following.**

3. the height of a refrigerator
4. the length of a banana
5. the thickness of a quarter
6. the distance from New York to Los Angeles
7. the length of a car
8. the height of a two-story house
9. How many centimeters are in 2 meters?
10. How many meters are in 8 kilometers?
11. **School** For a science experiment, students need a piece of string about as long as their science textbook. What metric unit should they use to measure the string?



**12. Standardized Test Practice** How long is the peanut in centimeters?

- A** 2 centimeters      **B** 3 centimeters  
**C** 4 centimeters      **D** 5 centimeters



**Answers:** 1. kilometer 2. millimeter 3. meter 4. centimeter 5. millimeter 6. kilometer 7. meter 8. meter 9. 200 10. 8,000 11. centimeter 12. B