Metric Measurement of Length

Name:

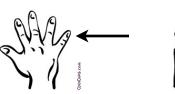
Period:

You are probably used to measuring how long things are with inches, feet, yards, and miles. Pretty much the entire rest of the world uses a different measuring system called the metric system. With the metric system, distances are measured in millimeters, centimeters, meters, and kilometers. The advantage of the metric system (besides the fact that almost everyone uses it) is that it is very easy to convert from one measurement to another. This is done by multiplying or dividing by 10, 100, or 1000. This quick exercise should help you remember the approximate sizes of metric units of length.

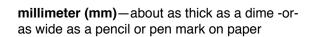
kilometer (km)—about as far as you can walk in 15 minutes -or- 3 times around the track for PE

centimeter (cm)—about as wide as your pinky -or- about as thick as a pencil





meter (m)—about as wide as a door









For each object listed below, write the abbreviation for the unit that would be best to use to measure it.

 the thickness of a textbook
 the width of your shoe
 the length of your pencil
 the height of your desk
 the length of your science classroom
 the distance from Salinas to Arizona
 the length of this handout
 the height of the flagpole in front of school
 the thickness of a penny
 the length of an ant
 the distance from Earth to the Moon
 the distance from your science classroom to the cafeteria