

Metric Measurement Notes

- In science class we always use the International System of measurement. For the most part, this consists of metric measurements. We refer to this system as SI.

Why do we call it SI if it's the International System? Because a bunch of smart people got together and decided that the world should have a common means of measurement. This makes things much easier for worldwide communication. Anyway, this all took place in France and the term that was decided upon was the System de International (the French version). That's why we call it SI and not IS.

- Always remember that there are NO fractions in the metric system (SI). Think back to math class. In metrics (SI), $\frac{1}{2}$ is .5. It might make it easier for you to remember if you consider that the metric system is based on 10's, half of ten is five. If you measured something that was 23.4 cm and $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mm, you would write that as 23.45 cm.
- Please remember No Naked Numbers! Please don't tell me that something measured 45.6. I don't know if that means 45.6 cats, 45.6 baseballs, 45.6 feet, or 45.6 cm. Always, always, always use labels!!!
- When using a meter stick (where the end of the stick is 0) start measuring from the 1 cm mark. After you get your measurement, subtract 1 cm for your final, accurate measurement.
- If you are using a ruler where the 0 starts in a little way from the end of the stick (0 is not at the end) then you can measure regularly.

Metric Prefixes

	<u>Prefixes</u>	<u>Means</u>	<u>Abbreviation</u>
largest	kilo	1,000	k
	hecto	100	h
	deka (deca)	10	dk (da)
base unit	meter/liter/gram	1	m/L/g
	deci	.1	d
	centi	.01	c
smallest	milli	.001	m

examples: dkg = dekagram mm = millimeter hL = hectoliter dm = decimeter

- King Henry Died By Drinking Chocolate Milk.**

Common Metric Units

<u>Length</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Mass</u>
mm = about width of piece of yarn cm = about radius of nickel m = little longer than yard stick km = just over $\frac{1}{2}$ mile	mL = about $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon L = about 1 quart; $\frac{1}{2}$ of 2 L bottle of soda *1 mL = 1 cm³ = 1 cc	g = 1 medium paper clip; 1 dollar bill kg = almost 2 pounds; bag of brown sugar