

Collecting Data

How are data collected?



A meterstick measures length.



A balance measures mass.



A stopwatch measures time.



A thermometer measures temperature.

Data are pieces of information you collect during an investigation. Your data may include observations and measurements. An **observation** is information gathered with your senses. **Measurements** are precise observations that include numbers and units. You make measurements using tools such as those above.

During an investigation, you should record, or write down, your data. To keep

data accurate, record observations when you make them. Also remember to include units with your measurements. Recording data accurately lets others repeat your experiment and check your results. Repeating measurements allows you to check the accuracy of your data. Each set of repeated measurements is called a **trial**.

Show What You Know

Fill in each blank with a word from this lesson that appears in bold type.

1. A repeated set of measurements is a _____.
2. Precise observations that include numbers and units are _____.
3. Information you collect during an investigation is called _____.
4. Any information you gather with your senses is an _____.