

Measuring Time and More

How are time, length, direction, and temperature measured?

Time is measured in **minutes**, **seconds**, and parts of a second. A **stopwatch** is used to measure time. Buttons on the stopwatch let you start and stop your time measurements. You then read the display to see how much time has passed.

Distance and length are measured with a **meterstick**. The main unit for distance and length is the **meter**. Long distances are measured in **kilometers**. A **metric ruler** can be used to measure shorter lengths in **centimeters** or **millimeters**.

A **compass** measures direction. The four main points on a compass are: N for North, S for South, E for East, and W for West. Directions between these points can include NE for northeast, NW for northwest, SE for southeast, and SW for southwest. The needle of a compass always points north.

A **thermometer** measures temperature. In science, temperature is usually measured in **degrees Celsius**.

Metric ruler



32 mm
3.2 cm

Stopwatch



2 minutes
13 and 5/100 second

Compass



North

Thermometer



27° C

Measuring tools in use

Show What You Know

Identify which tool you would use to make each measurement.

- _____ 1. direction you must go to cycle from your house to your friend's house
- _____ 2. length of an earthworm
- _____ 3. distance across your classroom
- _____ 4. how long it takes you to swim a lap in a pool