

Estimating Lengths

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 24

Q Quick Review

An **estimate** is a smart guess about how long something is *without* measuring it. To estimate well, picture a unit you know. An **inch** is about the width of your thumb. A **foot** is about the length of a ruler. A **centimeter** is about as wide as your pinky nail. A **meter** is about the width of a door. Compare the object to one of these and pick the closest answer.

◇ **Example:** Is the best estimate for the length of a new crayon 4 inches or 4 feet?
 ⇒ Let's picture each choice. 4 feet is about as tall as a young child — way too long for a crayon. 4 inches is about the length of your hand, which is close to how long a crayon really is. So the best estimate is 4 inches.

Answer: 4 inches

PRACTICE

Choose the best estimate for each length.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Best estimate for a door's height: 2 inches or 7 feet?
_____ | 11. Best estimate for the height of a soda can: 5 inches or 5 feet?
_____ |
| 2. Best estimate for the length of a paper clip: 1 inch or 1 foot?
_____ | 12. Best estimate for the length of a basketball court: 9 feet or 90 feet?
_____ |
| 3. Best estimate for the length of a school bus: 3 feet or 30 feet?
_____ | 13. Best estimate for the width of a doorway: 1 meter or 1 cm?
_____ |
| 4. Best estimate for the width of your pinky nail: 1 cm or 1 meter?
_____ | 14. Best estimate for the length of a spoon: 6 inches or 6 feet?
_____ |
| 5. Best estimate for the length of a pencil: 7 inches or 7 feet?
_____ | 15. Best estimate for the height of a flagpole: 2 feet or 20 feet?
_____ |
| 6. Best estimate for the height of a kitchen table: 3 feet or 30 feet?
_____ | 16. Best estimate for the length of a key: 2 inches or 2 feet?
_____ |
| 7. Best estimate for the length of a couch: 6 inches or 6 feet?
_____ | 17. Best estimate for the length of a bed: 2 feet or 7 feet?
_____ |
| 8. Best estimate for the width of a book: 8 inches or 8 feet?
_____ | 18. Best estimate for the width of a postage stamp: 2 cm or 2 meters?
_____ |
| 9. Best estimate for the length of an ant: 1 cm or 1 meter?
_____ | 19. Best estimate for the height of a refrigerator: 6 inches or 6 feet?
_____ |
| 10. Best estimate for the length of a car: 4 feet or 14 feet?
_____ | 20. Best estimate for the length of a fork: 7 inches or 7 feet?
_____ |

◆ Word Problems

21. Leo wants to estimate how long his bedroom is. Is a good estimate 1 foot or 10 feet? _____
22. Nina found a ladybug in the garden. Is the best estimate for its length 1 centimeter or 1 meter? _____
23. Jack is guessing how tall his front door is. Should he say about 7 inches or about 7 feet? _____
24. Emma estimates the length of her new marker. Is 5 inches or 5 feet the better estimate? _____



Answer Keys

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="text" value="7 feet"/> | 13. <input type="text" value="1 meter"/> |
| 2. <input type="text" value="1 inch"/> | 14. <input type="text" value="6 inches"/> |
| 3. <input type="text" value="30 feet"/> | 15. <input type="text" value="20 feet"/> |
| 4. <input type="text" value="1 cm"/> | 16. <input type="text" value="2 inches"/> |
| 5. <input type="text" value="7 inches"/> | 17. <input type="text" value="7 feet"/> |
| 6. <input type="text" value="3 feet"/> | 18. <input type="text" value="2 cm"/> |
| 7. <input type="text" value="6 feet"/> | 19. <input type="text" value="6 feet"/> |
| 8. <input type="text" value="8 inches"/> | 20. <input type="text" value="7 inches"/> |
| 9. <input type="text" value="1 cm"/> | 21. <input type="text" value="10 feet"/> |
| 10. <input type="text" value="14 feet"/> | 22. <input type="text" value="1 centimeter"/> |
| 11. <input type="text" value="5 inches"/> | 23. <input type="text" value="about 7 feet"/> |
| 12. <input type="text" value="90 feet"/> | 24. <input type="text" value="5 inches"/> |

Step-by-Step Explanations

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. A door is tall, much taller than 2 inches, so 7 feet is the best estimate.</p> <p>2. A paper clip is small, about the size of your thumb, so 1 inch fits best.</p> <p>3. A bus is very long, so 30 feet is the best estimate.</p> <p>4. A pinky nail is tiny, about 1 centimeter wide.</p> <p>5. A pencil is about as long as your hand, so 7 inches is best.</p> <p>6. A table comes up to about your waist, so 3 feet is the best estimate.</p> <p>7. A couch is long enough to sit on, so 6 feet fits best.</p> <p>8. A book fits in your hands, so 8 inches is the best estimate.</p> <p>9. An ant is very tiny, so 1 centimeter is the best estimate.</p> <p>10. A car is long, so 14 feet is a better estimate than 4 feet.</p> <p>11. A soda can fits in your hand, so 5 inches is the best estimate.</p> <p>12. A court is very long, so 90 feet is the best estimate.</p> <p>13. A doorway is about as wide as a meter, so 1 meter fits best.</p> <p>14. A spoon fits in your hand, so 6 inches is the best estimate.</p> | <p>15. A flagpole is very tall, so 20 feet is the best estimate.</p> <p>16. A key is small, so 2 inches is the best estimate.</p> <p>17. A bed is long enough to lie on, so 7 feet fits best.</p> <p>18. A stamp is tiny, so 2 centimeters is the best estimate.</p> <p>19. A refrigerator is taller than a person, so 6 feet fits best.</p> <p>20. A fork fits in your hand, so 7 inches is the best estimate.</p> <p>21. A bedroom is much longer than 1 foot. About 10 feet is a much better estimate for the length of a room.</p> <p>22. A ladybug is very tiny. A meter is about as wide as a door, so 1 centimeter is the best estimate.</p> <p>23. A door is taller than a grown-up. 7 inches is only about the length of a hand, so 7 feet is the best estimate.</p> <p>24. A marker fits easily in your hand. 5 feet would be taller than a chair, so 5 inches is the better estimate.</p> |
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