

# Converting Customary Units of Length

Grade 5 Math • Section 8.1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 14

## Quick Review and Helpful Hints

### Customary length conversions:

- 1 foot = 12 inches
- 1 yard = 3 feet = 36 inches
- 1 mile = 5,280 feet = 1,760 yards

**Larger to smaller:** multiply. **Smaller to larger:** divide.

**Always check:** converting to a smaller unit should give a **larger** number.

**Example:** Convert 4.5 feet to inches.

1 foot = 12 inches, so  $4.5 \times 12 = 54$  inches.

**Answer:** 54 inches

## Practice Problems

Convert each measurement.

- |                           |       |                               |       |
|---------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. 3 feet = _____ inches  | _____ | 7. 2.5 yards = _____ inches   | _____ |
| 2. 72 inches = _____ feet | _____ | 8. 10,560 feet = _____ miles  | _____ |
| 3. 5 yards = _____ feet   | _____ | 9. 1.5 miles = _____ yards    | _____ |
| 4. 2 miles = _____ feet   | _____ | 10. 30 inches = _____ feet    | _____ |
| 5. 48 inches = _____ feet | _____ | 11. 7 yards = _____ inches    | _____ |
| 6. 9 feet = _____ yards   | _____ | 12. 15,840 feet = _____ miles | _____ |

## Word Problems

13. A garden fence is 15 yards long. How many feet of fencing material are needed?

\_\_\_\_\_

14. A hallway is 108 inches long. Express this in feet. Is it more or less than 3 yards?

\_\_\_\_\_



## Answer Keys

- |           |                         |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1. 36     | 8. 2                    |
| 2. 6      | 9. 2,640                |
| 3. 15     | 10. 2.5                 |
| 4. 10,560 | 11. 252                 |
| 5. 4      | 12. 3                   |
| 6. 3      | 13. 45                  |
| 7. 90     | 14. 9 ft; equal to 3 yd |

### Step-by-Step Explanations

- Start with the main idea. For converting customary units of length, 3 feet times 12 inches per foot is 36 inches. Use the conversion fact first, then decide whether to multiply or divide.
- Keep the work tidy. For converting customary units of length,  $72 \div 12 = 6$  feet. Moving from a larger unit to a smaller unit usually makes the number larger.
- Look at what the numbers mean. For converting customary units of length, 5 yards times 3 feet per yard is 15 feet. Keep the unit label with the answer so the conversion is complete.
- Use the setup first. For converting customary units of length,  $2 \times 5,280 = 10,560$  feet. Use the conversion fact first, then decide whether to multiply or divide.
- Check the size of the answer. For converting customary units of length,  $48 \div 12 = 4$  feet. Moving from a larger unit to a smaller unit usually makes the number larger.
- Match the operation to the words. For converting customary units of length,  $9 \div 3 = 3$  yards. Keep the unit label with the answer so the conversion is complete.
- Write the important values first. For converting customary units of length, 2.5 yards is 7.5 feet, and  $7.5 \times 12 = 90$  inches. Use the conversion fact first, then decide whether to multiply or divide.
- Follow the pattern carefully. For converting customary units of length,  $10,560 \div 5,280 = 2$  miles. Moving from a larger unit to a smaller unit usually makes the number larger.
- Start with the main idea. For converting customary units of length,  $1.5 \times 1,760 = 2,640$  yards. Keep the unit label with the answer so the conversion is complete.
- Keep the work tidy. For converting customary units of length,  $30 \div 12 = 2.5$  feet. Use the conversion fact first, then decide whether to multiply or divide.
- Look at what the numbers mean. For converting customary units of length,  $7 \times 36 = 252$  inches. Moving from a larger unit to a smaller unit usually makes the number larger.
- Use the setup first. For converting customary units of length,  $15,840 \div 5,280 = 3$  miles. Keep the unit label with the answer so the conversion is complete.
- Check the size of the answer. For converting customary units of length, 15 yards times 3 feet per yard is 45 feet. Use the conversion fact first, then decide whether to multiply or divide.
- Match the operation to the words. For converting customary units of length,  $108 \div 12 = 9$  feet, and 3 yards is also 9 feet. Moving from a larger unit to a smaller unit usually makes the number larger.



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