

Converting Customary Units of Length

Grade 5 Math • Section 8.1

Name: _____

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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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