

Converting Customary Units of Length

Grade 5 Math • Section 8.1

Name: _____

Date: _____

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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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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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