

Length – estimate and measure with a ruler (cm)

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

Estimate the length of classroom objects in centimetres then measure them with a ruler starting at zero.

- A new pencil looks about 15 cm long.
- A rubber might be 4 cm wide.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

MEASURING A GLUE STICK

- 1 Line the zero mark up with one end of the glue stick.
- 2 Look where the far end reaches on the ruler.
- 3 The end sits between 7 and 8, closer to 7 so the length is 7 cm.

DISCUSSION STARTER

REFLECT When you estimated before measuring, were you usually close? What helped?

ANSWER KEY

a) 15 cm

b) 4 cm

c) 7.5 cm

Q1: 15 cm (estimate)

Q2: 4 cm

Q3: 8 cm

Q4: 8 cm

a) **Always** — The ruler must start at zero to give the correct reading.

b) **Sometimes** — Pencils vary so the length is sometimes 15 cm.

c) **Never** — It often falls between marks so you round to the nearest centimetre.

d) **Never** — You must always start at zero not at 1.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: 7 cm

S2: 7 cm

S3: 28.4 cm

S4: 14.8 cm

S5: 15 cm

Investigation: Estimate, measure, choose — open-ended; scan pupils' working for valid solution paths rather than a single answer.