

## Length – metres; choosing the right unit

### WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

A metre is a unit of length about as long as a metre stick. Use metres for long things in the school yard and centimetres for short things.

- The classroom is about 7 metres long; you would not measure that in centimetres.
- A pencil is measured in centimetres; the corridor is measured in metres.

### MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

#### CHOOSING METRES OR CENTIMETRES

- 1 Look at the object or distance.
- 2 Decide if it is long like the yard or short like a crayon.
- 3 Choose metres for long distances and centimetres for short lengths.

### DISCUSSION STARTER

**REFLECT** How do you decide whether centimetres or metres fit a length best?

### ANSWER KEY

a) m

b) cm

c) cm

Q1: metres

Q2: centimetres

Q3: centimetres

Q4: metres

Q5: metres

a) Always — The yard is a long distance.

b) Never — A crayon is short so use centimetres.

c) Sometimes — It depends on the exact bench length.

d) Always — Metres suit long school yard lengths.

### EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: 8800000 cm

S2: 9400 cm

S3: 20 cm

S4: 7 cm

S5: 48000 g

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