

## *The Metric System*

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### ***Did you know that...?***

*In establishing the Metric System, never has anything been more grand, simple, & coherent in all its parts that was produced by man.*

Metric minimizes the likelihood of error.

Metric does not have the numerous conversion factors of other systems.

Metric has one unit for a quantity.

Metric is legal, logical, and preferred.

***Between six months and two years of elementary arithmetic could be eliminated with the adoption of Metric System.***

### ***How to teach young people what they need to know about Metric!***

1. Teach using only the Metric System.
2. Use rulers and measuring tools that have only metric scale units.
3. Teach measurements and physical quantities using materials and examples that students can see and touch.
4. Select, estimate, compare and use appropriate units to measure: length (meter/centimeter); mass (kilogram/gram); volume (liter/milliliter) and temperature (degree / Celsius).
5. Teach by actively involving the students in measuring activities.

One Key Point to teaching metric to students.

***“Never convert between the customary system and the metric system.”***

When teaching metric pretend you only know metric. Do not show examples like a meter is about a yard. Instead show that a meter is about the length of a baseball bat or the distance from the floor to the center of a doorknob.

Use the “**8-9 Rule**”: Teach both systems {customary & metric} separately for eight months of the nine school-month year. Convert between the two systems during ninth month.

**Universities and Colleges** that educate elementary school teachers **should teach the metric system** and how to use it. Little time should be given to the Customary System. Teachers must know how to teach the Metric System and feel confident in doing so. The change to the metric system is **for all people** and all disciplines (not just science, engineering, and math).

We in the United States are 50% metric.

We have and use a hybrid measurement System.

Want to become a Certified Metric Specialist (CMS) Contact Don Jordan at [djordan@sc.edu](mailto:djordan@sc.edu)  
To apply and take the test costs nothing. If you pass there is a fee of \$50.00