

Victorian Weights and Measures

The metric system of measurement has been used in this country for some time and has gradually replaced the imperial system, which was in use in Victorian times.

The metric system is a decimal system. "Dec" means ten and so measurements are organised in terms of 1s, 10s (1×10) and 100s (10×10).

Metric measurements for length are based on metres (m) as follows:

1 centimetre (1cm)

1 metre (1m) = 100cm

1 kilometre (1km) = 1000m

Metric measurements for weight are based on grammes (g):

1 gramme (1g)

1 kilogramme (1kg) = 1000g

1 tonne = 1000kg

Metric measurements for capacity are based on litres (l) as follows:

1 millilitre (1ml) = 1/1000 (one thousandth) of a litre

1 centilitre (1cl) = 10ml = 1/100 (one hundredth) of a litre

1 litre (1l) = 1000ml

1 kilolitre (1kl) = 1000 litres

In Victorian times, people used the Imperial system of measurement, which uses different units altogether.

Imperial measurements for length are based on feet and inches as follows:

1 inch (written as 3in or 3")

1 foot (written as 5ft or 5') = 12 inches

1 yard (yd) = 3 ft

1 mile = 1760 yd

Imperial measurements for weight are based on pounds (lb) and ounces (oz) as follows:

1 ounce (1oz)

1 pound (1lb) = 16oz

1 stone = 14lb

1 hundredweight (1cwt) = 112lb

1 ton = 20cwt (*note: the metric tonne is not the same as the imperial ton*)

Imperial measurements for capacity are based on fluid ounces (fl oz) as follows:

1 fluid oz (1 fl oz)

1 pint (1pt) = 20 fl oz

1 gallon (1 gal) = 8 pt

Solve this!

Can you work out the answers to the following questions?

You can check your answers at the bottom of the page.



Alfred bought:

1lb of potatoes

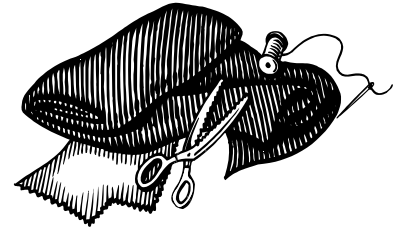
8oz of carrots

4oz of butter

12oz of sugar

How much did this weigh altogether? _____

Alfred's wife, Emily, was making dresses for her daughters. She needed 2 yd 18 in for one dress and 3 yd 18 in for the other.



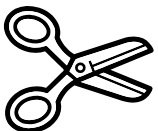
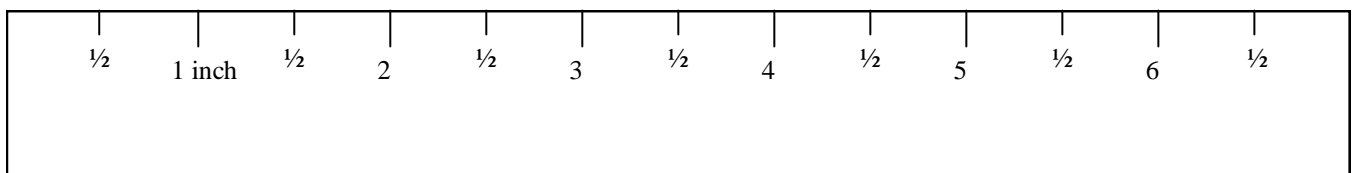
How much material did she buy? _____



The milkman sold 2 pints of milk to Miss Chapman, 5 pints to Mrs Brown, 3 pints to the Smith household and a gallon to the Police Station.

How much milk did he sell altogether? _____

Try this!



Cut out this ruler, which shows measurements in inches.

Find some objects in your classroom or at home and measure their length and width.