The Metric System Web Quest

History’s Important Dates

http://lamar.colostate.edu/~hillger/dates.htm

Examine the following dates and timeline to find out the history behind the metric system.

1) Who originated the metric system and when?

2) Which U.S. president proposed a decimal-based measurement system for the U.S.?

3) When was the metric system made legal in the U.S.? Was this mandatory?

4) In your own words, what did the U.S. Metric Study conclude in 1971?

5) Before the end of 2009, the US should allow ________________.

6) Why is it important that we understand and are able to use the metric system?
International Sports

Many of us enjoy the Olympics and can't help but marvel at the athletes' talent. Check out this website and answer the following questions.

1) What percentage of the world uses the metric system?

2) Approximately how high is 10 meters?

3) Approximately how high is 5 kilometers?

4) How wide is a balance beam for female gymnasts? What does this compare to?

5) Name one more interesting fact about international sports and its use of the metric system.
Let’s compare the metric system to the English Customary system

Since we still use the English Customary system in America (as well as the metric), it is important that we understand how the two different systems compare.

Use the following website to help answer the questions keeping in mind a visual of the different measurements. The first one has been completed for you as an example.

http://www.google.com/landing/searchtips/#unitconversion

1) Which is longer - a meter or a yard? 1 is slightly longer than 1 yard

2) Which is longer - a kilometer or a mile?

3) Which is longer - a centimeter and an inch? Hint: An inch is about the size of your thumbnail)

4) Which is heavier - a pound or a kilogram?

5) What is one object that weighs about one gram? How about five grams?

6) Which would hold more milk - a liter or a quart?

7) Which would hold more water - a teaspoon (tsp) or a milliliter?

8) Which is hotter, 30°C or 30°F? How do you know?
Finish completing the chart using the seven base units of the metric system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SI base unit</th>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meter</td>
<td>Distance</td>
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Do you think it would be difficult to convert between the English Customary System and the Metric System? For example, if I wanted to know how many grams were in a pound, what would I have to do?