

National Institute of Science & Technology (NIST) Metric Program

How to assess - Type the following – “NIST Metric”

On the left of the page Go to [Education Resources on the Metric System \(SI\)](#)

Under [Education Resources on the Metric System \(SI\)](#) Consider the following:

Education Resources on the Metric System (SI)

This collection of resources can be used to enrich classroom curriculum and reinforce student learning. These resources are helpful to students as they [become familiar with the metric system](#) and learn more about [SI basics](#). This site has numerous educational materials published by NIST that can be downloaded and freely reproduced. Contact the [NIST Metric Program](#) regarding handouts available in bulk so that each student can receive a copy.

Click on the following and scroll through to find information and Activities for Teachers and Students. “Some Great Stuff”

[become familiar with the metric system](#)

[SI basics](#).

Highlights

SI Teachers Kit: Obtain a free set of metric education resources for your classroom by contacting TheSI@nist.gov (include your name, school, subject, grade level, phone number, and mailing address).

Professional Development and Award Opportunities

[NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers](#)

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers is a two-week workshop in July for middle school science teachers featuring hands-on activities, lectures, tours, and visits with NIST scientists and engineers in their laboratories. See NIST Website on how to apply. Application process and details and deadlines are described on the Summer Institute program webpage. Applications must be submitted through your school district or private school administration.

- [NIST Metric Trivia Quiz](#)

How much do you know about the metric system (SI)? Try the [NIST Metric Trivia Quiz](#) online or use the [Alexa skill](#) to test your knowledge and be on your way to thinking metric!

Be sure to find:

“View the Universe!” Then move through space towards the Earth in successive orders of magnitude until you reach the subatomic universe of electrons and protons.

Nanotechnology - learn about the very small. Discover the scale of things - check out super small natural and man-made items from the nano world!

And

[U.S. Metric Association-Blake Family Foundation Metric Awards](#). The U.S. Metric Association (USMA) has partnered with the Blake Family Foundation to offer two awards to increase awareness and usage of the International System of Units (SI) in the United States. Applicants are asked to explain their efforts to promote metric in the United States. Teacher and High School Students can apply; \$2,500 to a student and \$500 to a teacher. Visit the United States Metric Association site – USMA.org

Time Could be Saved:

“Much more important, though, is the time that could be saved if students did not have to be drilled in the fractions necessary to cope with the customary system. Estimates varied, but mathematics teachers said that in elementary school they spend from 15 to 25 percent of their class time driving home the details of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing common fractions. “

They believe much of this is unnecessary. If the metric system, with its simpler decimal relationships, were taught, they could rapidly give their pupils the basic principles of fractions and then move on to other useful aspects of mathematics.

Time can be saved simply by having to teach just one system of measurement. Example: Teachers in Japan use one system of measurement – The Metric System - while the United States teaches two systems of measurement – Metric and customary. “

FAQ: How do I get a metric ruler?

Metric rulers are available from many retail vendors, which can be identified by using search terms such as "metric rule," "meter stick," or "metric stick." [Printable rulers](#) such as the centimeter [Color-square rules](#), can be color printed on to overhead transparency sheets to make inexpensive metric rulers. You may also be interested in similar printable teaching aids that create a [liter cube](#) or a [cubic decimeter box](#), which are easily constructed using cardstock.