

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## How to Read a Ruler

An English ruler consists of twelve inches. Twelve inches make up one foot. When looking at a ruler, we need to have a good grasp of fractions in order to read a ruler.

You will see a portion of a ruler below:



The large numbers on the ruler represent inches. The long line next to the number tells you exactly where that inch is. For example, the long line to the right of the number 1 tells us that that line marks one inch from the beginning of the ruler.

Each line on a ruler represents  $\frac{1}{16}$  of an inch or  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch (depending upon the type of ruler being used). Rather than counting every sixteenth or every eighth, we have other markings on a ruler that we can use as shortcuts for finding our number.

The center mark between numbers represents  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an inch (as seen below in red):



The next smallest marking after the half inch is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch (as seen below in red):



The next marking would be  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch (as seen below in red):



or



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## How to Read a Ruler (Cont'd)

The next smallest marking is  $\frac{1}{16}$  of an inch (as seen below in red):



When writing down the length measurement that we have taken using a ruler, we write the full inch, followed by any fraction. For example if something is one and one half inches long, we would write this as:  $1 \frac{1}{2}$ .

It is also important to note that there are abbreviations for the word “inches” and the word “feet.” For example, 2 inches can be written as 2”. Two feet can be written as 2'. If something is 2 feet and 2 inches long, you may see this abbreviation: 2' 2”. Whether you write out the words or use the abbreviations, both mean the same thing.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## How to Read a Ruler Questions

Circle the line on the ruler that would be equal to the length listed:

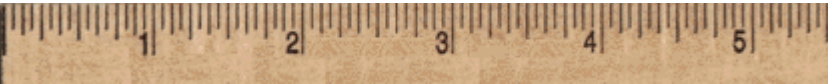
1.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches



2.  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches



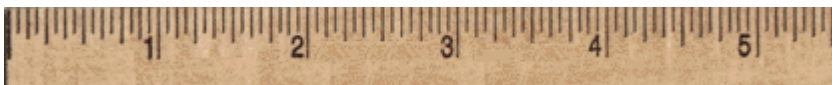
3.  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch



4.  $4\frac{1}{8}$  inches



5.  $1\frac{3}{16}$  inches



Using the correct abbreviations, please write these lengths in the blanks provided:

6. Five feet, four inches \_\_\_\_\_

7. One foot, nine inches \_\_\_\_\_

8. Three feet, one inch \_\_\_\_\_

9. Three inches \_\_\_\_\_

10. Two feet \_\_\_\_\_

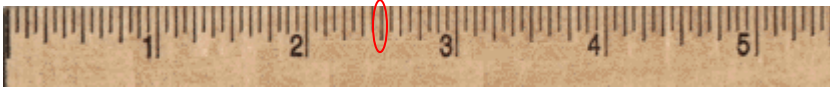
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## How to Read a Ruler Answers

Circle the line on the ruler that would be equal to the length listed:

1.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches



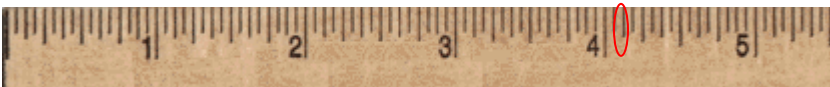
2.  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches



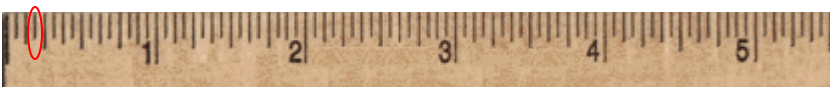
3.  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch



4.  $4\frac{1}{8}$  inches



5.  $1\frac{3}{16}$  inches



Using the correct abbreviations, please write these lengths in the blanks provided:

6. Five feet, four inches 5' 4"

7. One foot, nine inches 1' 9"

8. Three feet, one inch 3' 1"

9. Three inches 3"

10. Two feet 2'