Basic Concept Measurement of Length

There are two types of measurement non-standard unit of measurement and standard unit of measurement.

Non-standard unit of measurement

In olden days lengths was measured using handspan, finger width, cubit and pace.



HANDSPAN

FOOTSPAN

CUBIT

PACE



Hand span

Hand span is a measure of distance from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the little finger with the hand fully extended.

Foot span

Foot span is the distance between the longest toe to the ankle.

Cubit

It is measured as the distance between the elbow to the tip of the longest finger.

Pace

To measure a distance by walking across it with steps of equal length.

Basic Concept Measurement of Length

Standard unit of measurement

To measure a distance by walking across it with steps of equal length.

We has seen that there is a difference in length when the same object is measured by different people using handspan, foot span or cubit.

So, to measure the length correctly, we use some fixed measures. These are called the **standard units**.

Centimetre and **Metre** are the standard units of length.

Centimetre

We use centimeter to measure shorter length. It is written as cm.







about 1 cm

about 3 cm

about 15 cm

We use a cm ruler to measure shorter lengths.

Basic Concept Measurement of Length

Using a Centimetre Ruler

Place the object alongside the ruler, with one end of the object at the zero mark on the ruler.



Take the reading at the other end of the object.

This gives us the length of the object.

The length of the above pencil is 16 cm.

Metre

We cannot measure the length of the longer objects with the help of cm.

So, we use metre to measure longer objects.