



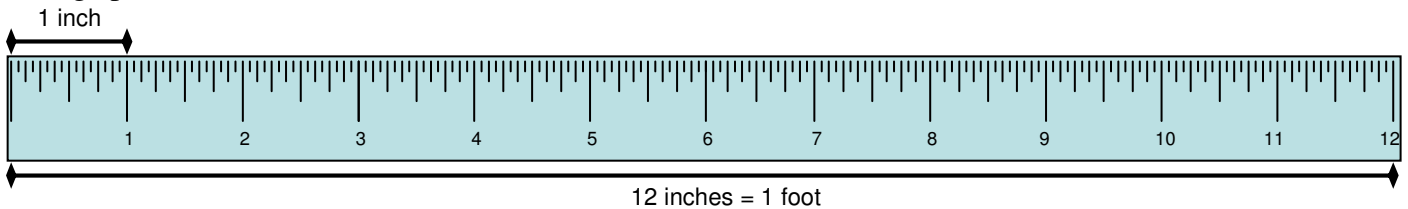
Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research

K-12 Outreach Program

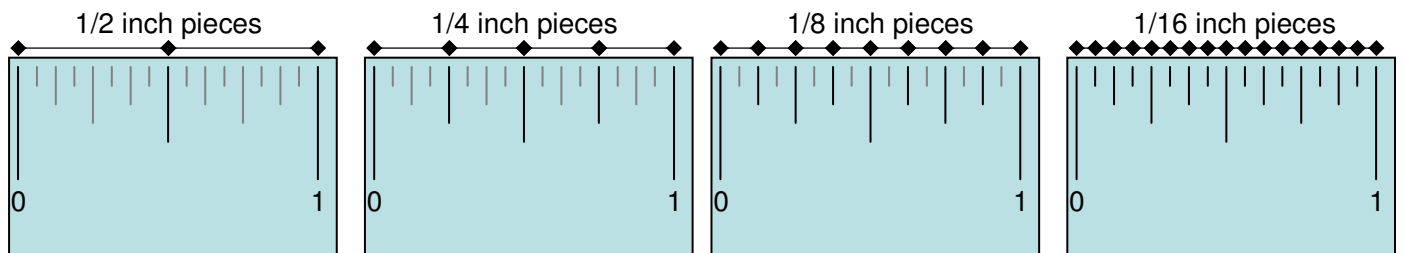
How to use a ruler



A ruler is an object that is used to measure how long things are. Most rulers are 12 inches long, as seen below. Yard sticks are the same as a ruler except they are 36 inches long. Inches and feet can be used to measure many things small and big. For example: a piece of binder paper is often 11 inches tall or the average person in the United States is 5 feet and 10 inches tall.



It can be challenging to read the fractions on the ruler. Each of the marks on a ruler measure a different fraction. The length of the line help you figure out which line is which. Here is a helpful picture:



The secret is to count the correct lines. These examples will help you understand fractions of an inch:

	<p>This line is longer than 1 inch, but by how much?</p> <p>The dark lines match the 1/4 inch marks on the ruler. You can see 3 of these marks. This means 3/4 of an inch. So the total length of the line is 1-3/4 inches</p>
	<p>How long is this line?</p> <p>The arrows are pointing to the 1/8 inch marks on the ruler. There are 7 of the 1/8 marks. These means that this line is 7/8 of an inch.</p>