



## Topic C

# Non-Standard and Standard Length Units

## 1.OA.1, 1.MD.2

**Related Topics:**
[More Lesson Plans for Grade 1 Common Core Math](#)

<b>Focus Standard:</b>	1.OA.1	Use addition and subtraction within 20 to solve word problems involving situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing, with unknowns in all positions, e.g., by using objects, drawings, and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem. (See Glossary, Table 1.)
	1.MD.2	Express the length of an object as a whole number of length units, by laying multiple copies of a shorter object (the length unit) end to end; understand that the length measurement of an object is the number of same-size length units that span it with no gaps or overlaps. <i>Limit to contexts where the object being measured is spanned by a whole number of length units with no gaps or overlaps.</i>
<b>Instructional Days:</b>	3	
<b>Coherence</b>	<b>-Links from:</b>	GK–M3 Comparison of Length, Weight, Capacity, and Numbers to 10
	<b>-Links to:</b>	G2–M2 Addition and Subtraction of Length Units
		G2–M7 Problem Solving with Length, Money, and Data

Topic C gives students a chance to explore the usefulness of measuring with similar units. The topic opens with Lesson 7, where students measure the same objects from Topic B using two different non-standard length units simultaneously, such as toothpicks and small paper clips (**1.MD.2**). They then use small paper clips and large paper clips, two non-standard units that happen to be the same object but at different lengths. Each time they measure one object using both units and receive inconsistent measurement results. Students then begin to ask the question, “Why do we measure with same-sized length units?” As they explore why it is so important to use the same-sized length unit, they realize that doing so yields consistent measurement results.

In Lesson 8, students explore what happens when they use a different unit of measurement from that of their classmates. As students measure the same objects with different non-standard length units, they realize that in order to have discussions about the lengths of objects together, they *must* measure with the same units. Students answer the question, “If Bailey uses paper clips and Maya uses toothpicks, and they both measure

things in our classroom, will they be able to compare their measurements?” With this new understanding of consistent measurement, Lesson 9 closes the topic, with students solving *compare with difference unknown*

problems using centimeters. Students explore and solve problems such as, “How much longer is the pencil than the marker?” (1.OA.1). Revisiting the centimeter here helps students recognize the value of having a consistent way to communicate about various measurements.

### A Teaching Sequence Towards Mastery of Non-Standard and Standard Length Units

**Objective 1:** Measure the same objects from Topic B with different non-standard units simultaneously to see the need to measure with a consistent unit.  
(Lesson 7)

**Objective 2:** Understand the need to use the same units when comparing measurements with others.  
(Lesson 8)

**Objective 3:** Answer *compare with difference unknown* problems about lengths of two different objects measured in centimeters.  
(Lesson 9)