Measure Lengths in Centimetres

Answer and print-scale guide.

Check before measuring

Print on the selected paper size at 100% or Actual size. Do not fit to page. Check the calibration line with a physical ruler: it must be 5 cm long. If it is not, change the printer scaling before using the activity. Paper dimensions and vector lengths are checked in the file; a particular printer has not been calibrated.

1. Pencil: 2 cm

The left end is at zero and the right end is at 2. The pencil spans two centimetre intervals.

2. Ribbon: 4 cm; 3. Stem: 6 cm

Count the equal spaces between numbered marks, not the number of marks. Each object begins at zero.

4. Shifted ribbon: 5 cm

The left end is at 2 and the right end is at 7. Its length is 7 minus 2, which is 5 cm. A reading of 7 tells you the end position, not this ribbon’s length.

Talk about the method

Ask the child to point to both ends. They can count the five intervals from 2 to 7 or explain the subtraction. Accept a spoken explanation if writing is a barrier.