

Metric Measurement of Mass

Name:

Period:

You are probably used to measuring how heavy things are with ounces, pounds, and tons. Pretty much the entire rest of the world uses a different measuring system called the metric system. With the metric system, masses are measured in milligrams, grams, kilograms, and metric tons. The advantage of the metric system (besides the fact that almost everyone uses it) is that it is very easy to convert from one measurement to another. This is done by multiplying or dividing by 10, 100, or 1000. This quick exercise should help you remember the approximate sizes of metric units of mass.

metric ton (t)—about as heavy as a small truck



gram (g)—about as heavy as a dime



kilogram (kg)—about as heavy as a textbook



milligram (mg)—about as heavy as a grain (single piece) of sand



For each object listed below, write the **abbreviation** for the unit that would be best to use to measure it.

- _____ the mass of a quarter
- _____ the mass of a bagel
- _____ the mass of a packet of cream cheese
- _____ the mass of a pair of shoes
- _____ the mass of a grain of salt
- _____ the mass of a basketball
- _____ the mass of a car
- _____ the mass of a pencil
- _____ the mass of a key to your front door
- _____ the mass of an ant
- _____ the mass of a paperclip
- _____ the mass of an elephant