



# Family Letter for Unit 3

Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, our math class will be learning about measurement, data, and graphing.

You can expect to see homework that provides practice with changing from one unit of measure to another. Also, you can expect to see work involving data collection and data displays.

**Vocabulary**

**metric system** An international system of measurement that uses meter, liter, gram, and degrees Celsius as its basic units.

**frequency table** A table in which data is organized into equal intervals.

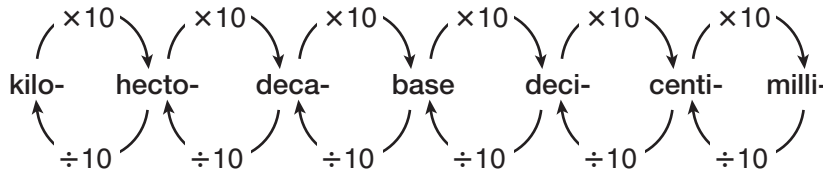
**stem-and-leaf plot** A frequency distribution in which data is arranged in order of place value.

## Metric System of Measurement

The metric system of measurement is based on 10 and powers of 10. The prefixes used for length, capacity, and mass tell what part of the basic unit is being considered. The symbols for each unit of measure are given in parentheses ( ). The most commonly used units are shown in **bold** below.

prefix	meaning	measure of length	measure of capacity	measure of mass
kilo-	1,000	<b>kilometer</b> (km)	kiloliter (kL)	<b>kilogram</b> (kg)
hecto-	100	hectometer (hm)	hectoliter (hL)	hectogram (hg)
deka-	10	dekameter (dkm)	dekaliter (dkL)	dekagram (dkg)
base unit	1	<b>meter</b> (m)	<b>liter</b> (L)	<b>gram</b> (g)
deci-	0.1	<b>decimeter</b> (dm)	deciliter (dL)	decigram (dg)
centi-	0.01	<b>centimeter</b> (cm)	centiliter (cL)	centigram (cg)
milli-	0.001	<b>millimeter</b> (mm)	<b>milliliter</b> (mL)	<b>milligram</b> (mg)

To change from a larger unit to a smaller unit, multiply by the appropriate power of 10. To change from a smaller unit to a larger unit, divide by the appropriate power of 10.



Help your child develop skill in using the metric system by discussing the metric measurements found on most food or beverage containers. You could also have your child find the size of various rooms in your home in metric units.

Sincerely,



## Technology

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