January 14, 2023
The Metric System Has Gained New Prefixes

Student Comprehension Worksheet

**Directions:** Read the online Science News article “The metric system is growing. Here’s what you need to know,” which explores new prefixes for the metric system. A version of the article, “The metric system gains new prefixes,” appears in the January 14, 2023 issue of *Science News.*

1. What are the new metric system prefixes? How are they represented numerically compared with a base unit of measure, for example one meter?

2. When and where were the new prefixes adopted?

3. What was one sign that new prefixes were needed, according to Richard Brown?

4. What is the global system of measurement called? Why is it beneficial for scientists to use a shared system and set of prefixes? Explain.

5. What are the masses of Earth and an electron using the new prefixes? Why might these prefixes be beneficial in some cases?