

Measuring with a Metric Ruler

Douglas Gilliland

2008 - The Physical Science Series

Known : to recognize with certainty

Unknown : unidentified, nameless, not known

Estimate : to judge an approximate value

Calibration : smallest space on an instrument

Vocabulary

Knowns

Gender Race

Classify her:

Estimates

Age Mood Plants

Unknowns

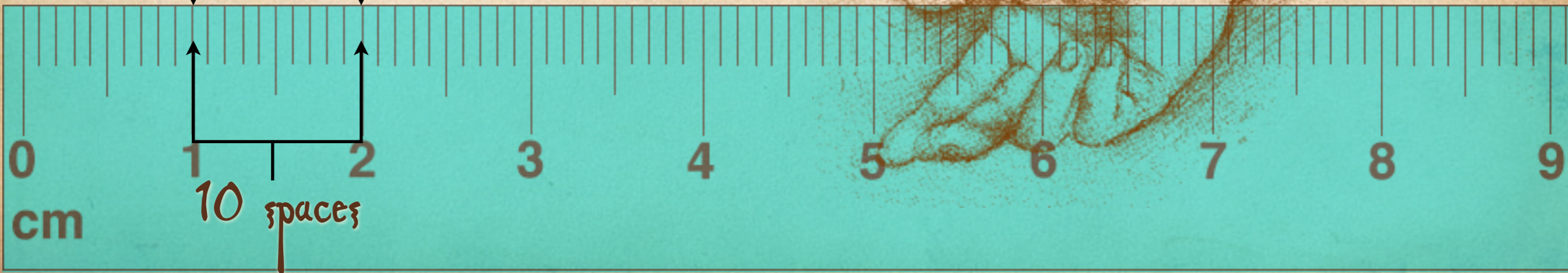
Name Country
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How to Calibrate a Ruler

1. Find two numbered lines on the ruler and subtract their values.
2. Count the number of spaces that separate them.
3. To calibrate simply divide #1 by #2.

$$\frac{1 \text{ cm}}{10 \text{ spaces}} = \frac{0.1 \text{ cm}}{\text{space}}$$



Simple Rule of Measuring:

When measuring, always read an instrument out to where the last digit you record is an estimate and all the digits before it are known.



What is the length of the pencil?

estimate

unit

9 cm

Sarasota High School Sailors Rule!

0

cm

10

SHS

Calibration = 10 cm per space

What is the length of the pencil?

estimate

unit

9.3 cm

known

Sarasota High School Sailors Rule!

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

cm

Physical Science @ SHS

Calibration = 1 cm per space

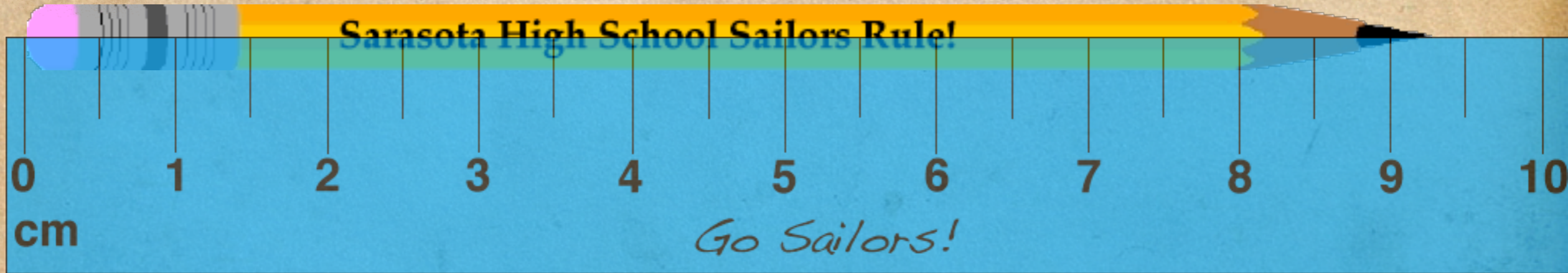
What is the length of the pencil?

estimate

unit

known

9.3 cm



Calibration = 0.5 cm per space

What is the length of the pencil?

known

estimate

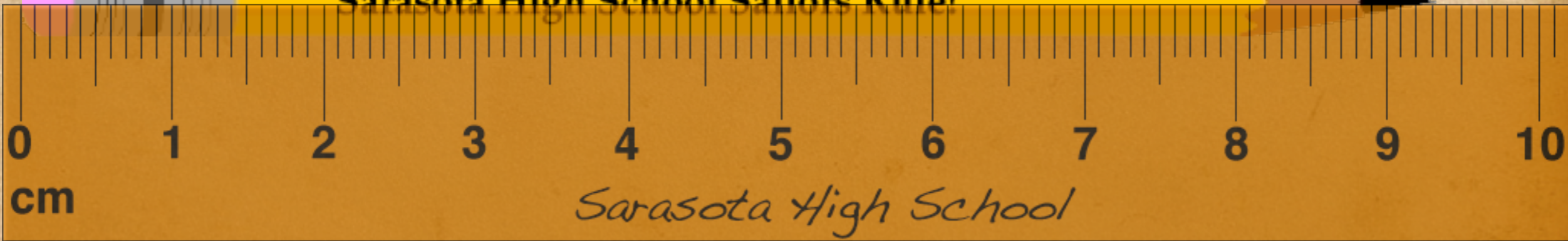
9.29

cm

known

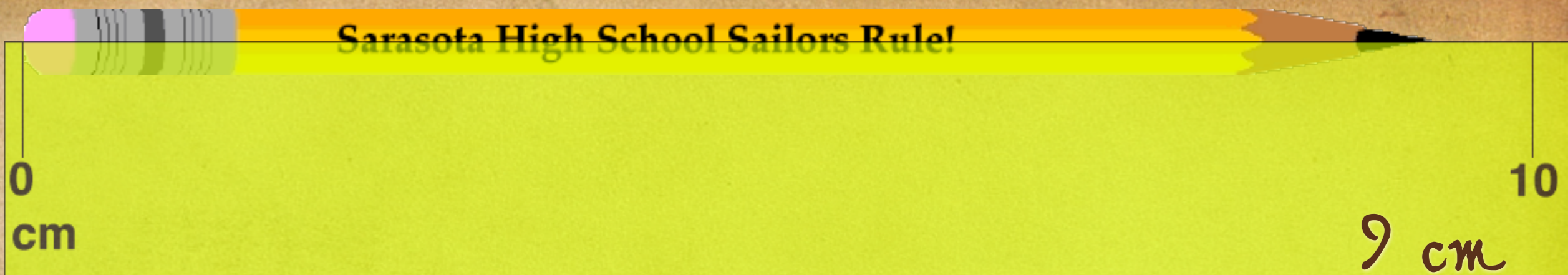
unit

Sarasota High School Sailors Rule!



Calibration = 0.1 cm per space

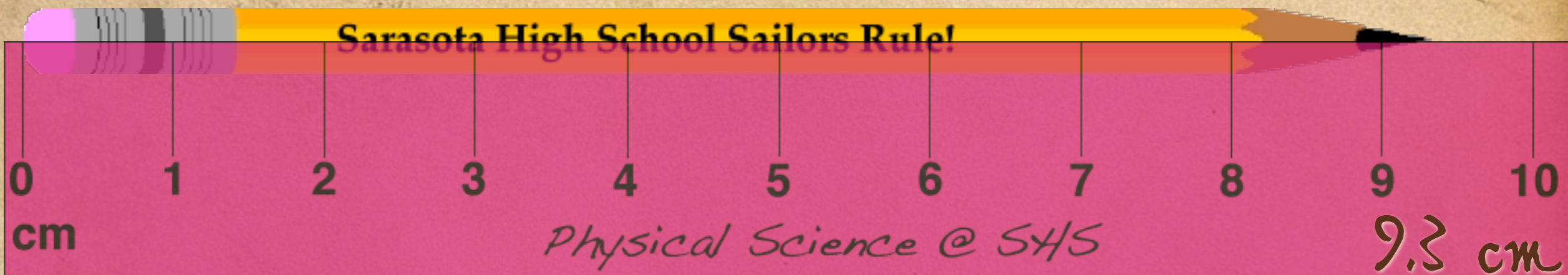
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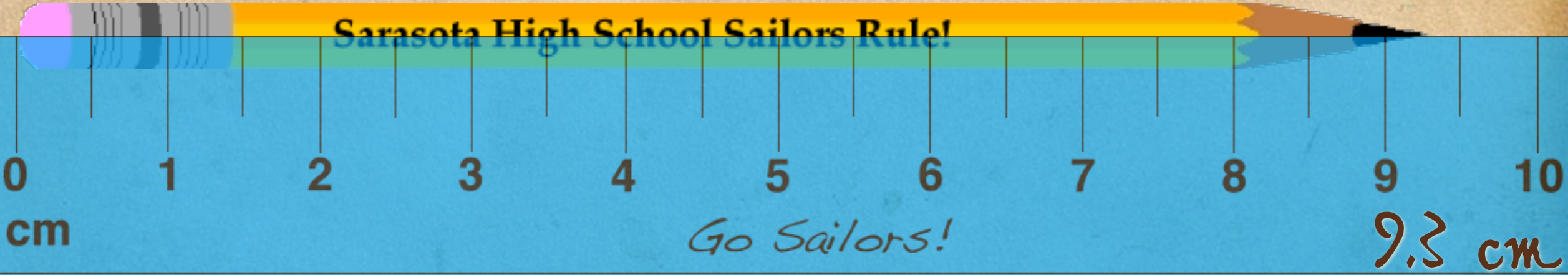
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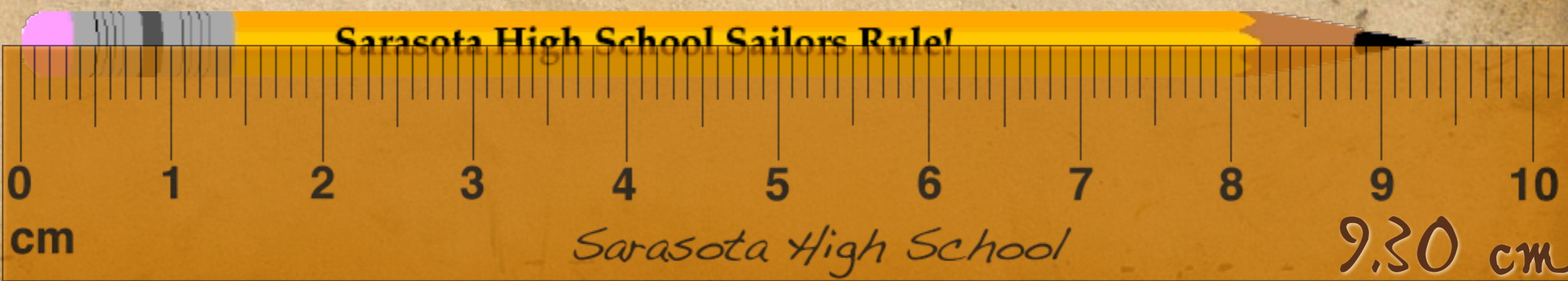


a

r



y



Measuring:

Distance - 1 dimensional

Diameter

of

Coin



Measuring:

Area - 2 dimensional

Area

of a

Square



3.63 cm

$$3.63 \text{ cm} \times 3.63 \text{ cm} = 13.2 \text{ cm}^2$$

Sarasota High S

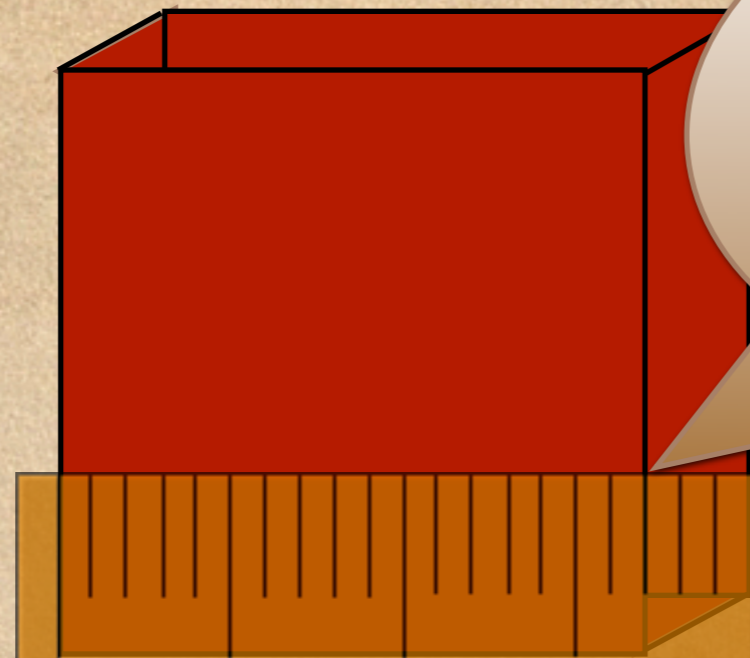
Measuring:

Volume - 3 dimensional

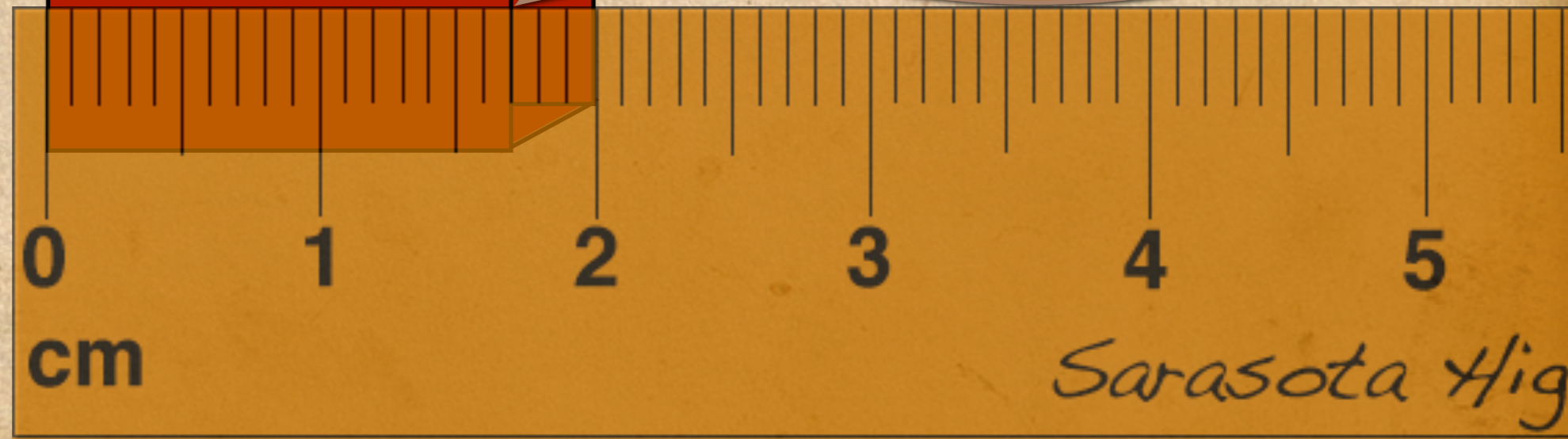
Volume

of a

Cube



1.70 cm
(1.7 cm is not correct -
it has no estimate)



$$1.70\text{cm} \times 1.70\text{cm} \times 1.70\text{cm} = 4.91\text{ cm}^3$$

Remember:

You must Calibrate an instrument before you can read it.

Smaller calibrations = more accurate measurements.

Read an instrument out to where the last digit is an estimate and all digits to the left are knowns.

Always end your measurement with a unit.

