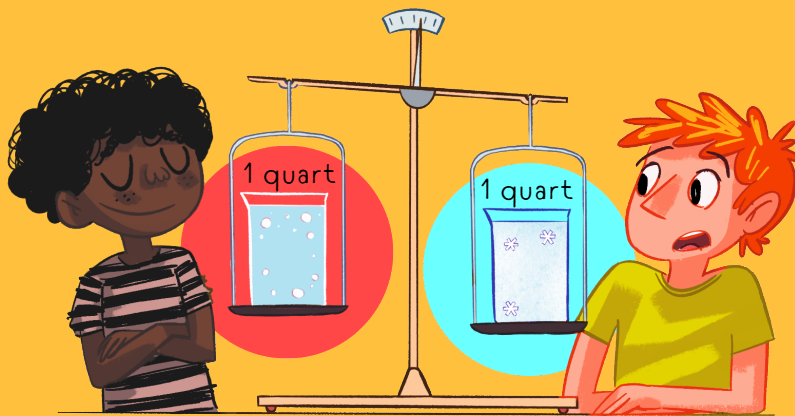


Are we weighing things accurately?

How can we be sure that the pound of apples we bought in a store really weighs a pound? Are the scales in the shop even accurate? How do we make sure everyone weighs things the same way? And is a pound the same all over the world?

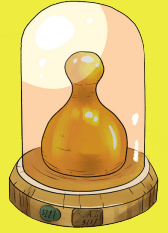
You might go to a shop to buy a pound of cheese, a gallon of milk, or a few feet of two-by-four-inch wood. You know there are 16 ounces in one pound as there are 12 inches in one

foot. But how big exactly is a foot and how heavy is a pound? In medieval times, it was common for each city to have its own units of measurement. This led to much confusion – the

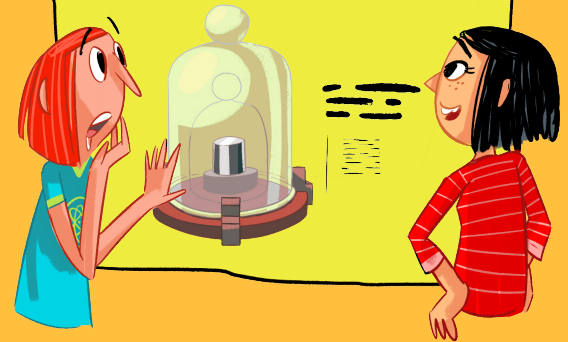


What if someone steals it?

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same rope could be 15 feet long in one city and 18 feet long somewhere else. In medieval England, a pound was originally defined as the weight of 7,000 grains of barley. And based on the law of an English king, one inch was meant to be as long as three

How do we protect banknotes?

Take a good look at a dollar bill sometime. It's fascinating how many different features they have on them. There are even some you can't see. You may have wondered why that is. If banknotes were made in an ordinary way, anyone could print them. Forging banknotes has to be difficult, so each country has come up with lots of clever features to protect its banknotes.

Banknotes aren't made from regular paper – they're way, way tougher! Hold one up to the light and you might spot a watermark – a hidden picture you can't see on the surface.



watermark



What a clever forgery.

