

**NEW Feature!**



# Time Out for The Agnes Pflumm *ReadforScience*® Series!



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## Football vs. Metrics

*“Okay, Andrew,” said Andy’s mom. (She always called him “Andrew”.) “Let’s see how well you can use this metric ruler.” Andy’s mom was a professional architect... and she had never lost an opportunity to work with Andy on what she thought was this most important of subjects. He took the ruler grudgingly.*

*“Mom, I hate to tell you this, but I’m not very good at metrics.”*

*“I know that, Andrew. That’s why we’re doing this. Okay, first question. What do these smallest hatch marks stand for?”*

*“Um, centimeters?”*

*“No.”*

*“Millimeters?”*

*“That’s right.*



*Now, how many milli- meters in a meter?”*

*“Mom, isn’t there something else you’d rather being doing?*

*Like shopping? Reading? Leaving me alone? It’s Friday night!”*

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## Why has the United States not adopted metrics?

Every Monday night in America, millions of people stop everything they’re doing to watch football. Let’s listen in: **NFL Broadcaster:** *Well, folks, it’s fourth down, goal to goal, and 2.7 meters to go. What a bruiser that center is. I wouldn’t mess with that 136 kilogram wall of muscle!*

Nah, that couldn’t happen in our country, could it? Why, you ask? Because we’re not likely to reline our football fields in meters or weigh our athletes in kilograms. Just as unlikely are we to convert our freeway speed limit signs to 112 kilometers per hour, take our temperature in degrees Celsius, or record our height in centimeters. Traditions die hard.

Did you know that the U.S. is the only industrialized nation on the planet that has not officially adopted metrics as its system of measurement, even though *all* scientists use it? **YOU** can change this! Make metrics a part of your world today.