

Display the **Ruler Worksheet**. Ask the following:

- ? What is a ruler used for? (*Measuring length*)
- ? Why might a ruler be an important tool for a nature detective? (*e.g., many things in our world are growing and changing, so it's important to know how to use a ruler to measure growth and change.*)

Point out the side of the ruler that is used to measure in inches. Point out the 1 inch through 12 inch markings. Explain that if you want to measure something that is 12 inches or less, a ruler can be a very good tool.

Hold up a ruler, then point to a few different things in the classroom. As you point, get the class to decide if you could measure them easily with a ruler.

- Small things – paper clip, eraser, sticky note
- Medium things – paper, shoe, pencil
- Large things – chair, desk, table, wall

The detectives should get the idea that a ruler is useful for measuring many of the small and medium-sized objects but not so useful for measuring the large objects. With the document camera, show how to accurately measure something by lining up a large paper clip with the 0 on the inches side of the ruler. Show how the paper clip lines up with the 0 and the 2 on the ruler, so it is 2 inches long.

Pass out a **paper clip** and a **ruler** to each detective. Have them practice measuring the paper clip while you go around the room to make sure they are measuring correctly. Have them place the 2-inch paper clip at various starting places on the ruler and note the beginning number and the ending number that is two units greater. *Don't always start at zero.*

## MATERIALS:

- \*Ruler Worksheet
- \*Ruler
- \*Paper Clip

