Volume is how much space something takes up. Liquid volume is usually measured in milliliters using a graduated cylinder. Beakers are sometimes used to measure liquid volumes. However, measurements made with a beaker are often less precise than those made with a graduated cylinder. Beakers measure in milliliters or liters.

A triple-beam balance uses riders on three beams to measure mass. Riders on one beam measure hundreds of grams (100, 200, etc.). Riders on a second beam measure grams in tens (10, 20, etc.). Riders on the third beam measure grams and tenths of grams (for example, 1.0 and 1.3).

Weight is a measure of the force of gravity on an object. Weight (and other forces) is measured in newtons using a spring scale. A spring inside the scale stretches when an object is attached to the spring scale. The object's weight determines how much the spring stretches.

Show What You Know

Identify a tool you would use to make each measurement.

1. volume of a glass of water
2. weight of a book
3. mass of a clam shell