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### A note about units of measure

Units of measure present an interesting dilemma to the editors of any book intended to be read and used throughout North America. While Americans are accustomed to inches, yards and acres, it is not unusual to find U.S. science curricula following the metric system. And while Canada, and Canadian curricula, are officially metric, many Canadian teachers grew up with the British imperial system in which an inch is a U.S. inch but a quart is a U.S. quart-and-a-quarter. To muddy the matter further, hardly anyone anywhere knows a hectare from a hollyhock. Our solution to this confusion has been to present both metric and U.S. units of measure wherever we thought it would be helpful for readers to have both. The result is often more cumbersome than we would have wished, but more useful, we hope, to the majority.