Mathematics, Grade 6 Unit IV: Lesson 3

Debate: U.S. System vs. Metric System



The United States (U.S.) is the only major country in the world that has not fully adopted the metric system. You and a classmate are to find reasons why the United States does not use the metric system, what attempts have been made to encourage the use of the metric system and with what results. Do research, using at least three different sources of information, and make written notes from your sources.

Decide who will present the argument in favor of requiring the United States to adopt the metric system and who will present the opposite view. Organize your notes into major points. Practice a debate with your classmate, presenting your points and arguing against his/her points.

Conduct your debate in front of the class. At the end of the debate, have the class vote to support the adoption of the metric system or continue to allow the United States to use the standard system of measurement.