

Math Extention Project (Bones)

Objective: to measure various objects using non-standard units of the human body

Student Information:

Long before there were rulers, people could measure things:

- A cubit is the length from the elbow to the fingertips.
- A span is the measure of your outspread fingers.
- A fathom measures your outstretched arms.
- A pace is a walking step.

Procedures:

1. Use your own cubit to find some measures in the classroom. Work with a partner.
 - Find something in the classroom that is the same size as your cubit. What is it?
 - Guess how many cubits long the teacher's desk is. Now use your body to find how many cubits long it really is.
 - Guess how many cubits wide the chalkboard is. Measure to find how many cubits wide it really is.
2. On a piece of paper, draw a line to show the size of your span.
3. How many friends standing side by side fit in your fathom?
4. How many paces is it from the classroom door to your seat?

Assessment: (Journal Entry)

- Work with a partner.
- How tall are you in cubits?
- Suppose a weaver sells five fathoms of cloth for three dollars. In this class, whose fathom would you want to measure with? Why?

Source: Integrated Theme Units, Scholastic, Inc., 1993