

Math and the Human Body

Activity 2 - Measuring Our Bodies

Do you know which bone in your body is the longest? Can you guess which bone in your body is the smallest? Can you guess which bone in your body is the largest? Try finding the answers to these questions by measuring yourself in the following activity!

In this activity you will need: a partner, tape, two pieces of bristol board or chart paper, scissors, a ball of string, a pencil and a ruler.

Activity Instructions:

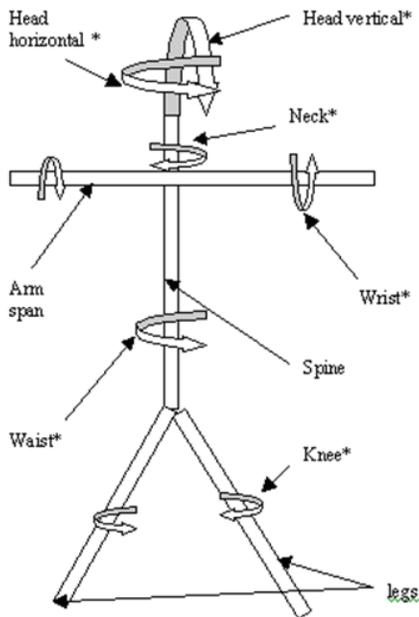
1. Cut bristol board or chart paper length-wise into strips about as wide as the ruler.
2. Using string, have your partner help you measure the length of your spine. Stand up straight and hold one end of the string on the bottom end of your spine while your partner holds the other end to the bottom of your skull.
3. Cut the string and use it to cut the bristol board the length of your spine. If the bristol board is not long enough, tape two pieces together. After cutting the bristol board the length of your spine, label it “spine”.
4. Measure your head. First measure around your head (horizontally) with a string. Then cut a strip of bristol board the length of the string and label it “head horizontal”.
5. Measure your head in the other direction - this time up and down (vertically). Have your partner help you. Then cut a strip of bristol board the length of the string and label it “head vertical”

Can you believe THIS is math?

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6. Measure other parts of your body in the same way. Do these body parts: arm span (from finger tip to finger tip), two legs, two wrists, one waist, two knees, two feet and one neck.



Before putting your body parts together, look at your strips:

- Which strips are about the same size?
- How many knee strips are about as long as one leg strip?
- How many head strips are about as long as an arm span strip?
- How many wrist strips make up a waist strip?

Putting the Pieces Together:

When putting pieces together, start with the strips that will be round. To make each strip round, bring the strips together to make a circle (don't overlap the ends!) and tape it.

Can you believe THIS is math?