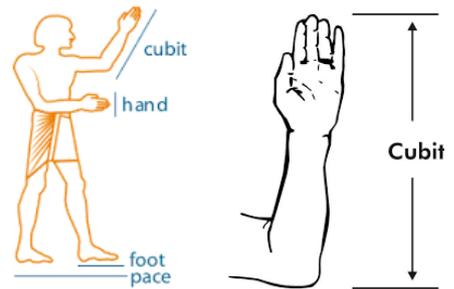


How Long is a Foot?

History of Measurement

The earliest measurements were based on body parts. A main measurement 5,000 years ago for the Egyptians was the cubit. This was the length from fingertip to elbow.



The Greeks used a different measure - the finger, while the Romans used the foot.

How long is a foot?

A foot was based on the average size of a Roman man's foot. The foot is broken into twelve smaller units, inches - about the same length as the top joint of a man's thumb.



The same measurement is still used in many countries and today is a standard 12 inches.

Investigate

Do you think using your foot is a good and accurate measuring tool? Why not make your own foot ruler to find out! If possible compare with other 'foot rulers' in your house.

1. Get a piece of paper and carefully draw around your foot.
2. Cut out your foot
3. **Measure and compare:** measure the length of something with your cut out foot.



Measure the table; the **length** of your garden path; the **width** of your bedroom, or the **height** of the door.

If you have a ruler or a tape measure – compare the length – remember 1 foot = 12 inches. Or if someone else has cut out their foot, do you arrive at the same length? If not – why do you think that is?

Why is this maths?

Understanding that a unit is a set or a uniform size is important in understanding how measuring works.

A standard unit of measurement is more reliable than everyone using their own footprint to measure! Did making your own foot measurer help you discover why? Tip: compare your parent's /sibling's /friend's foot measurer!

In the U.K. we used to use inches and feet – the **imperial system** - most frequently. However, these days we have adopted what is known as the **metric system**.

This means for length:

mm - millimetres

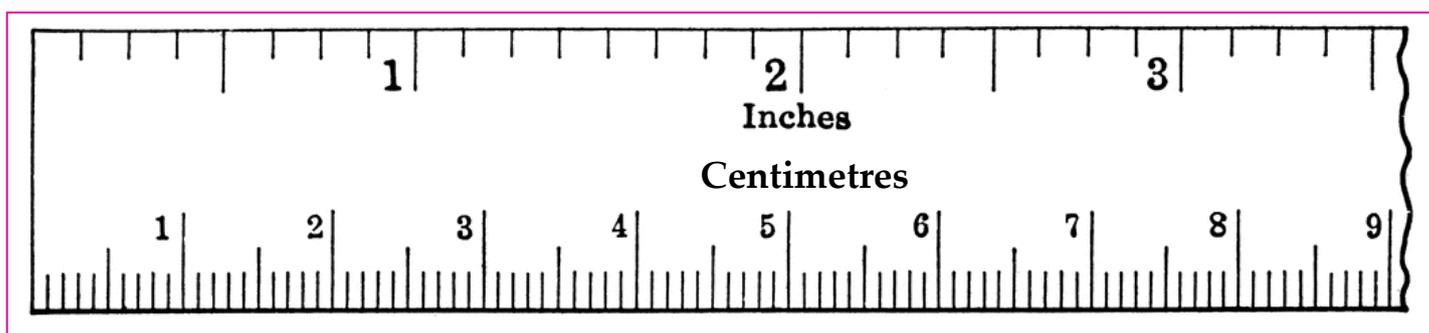
cm - centimetres

m – metres

km - kilometres

Can you compare inches/feet to centimetres/metres?

Use this handy visual to help, can you spot any rules or patterns?:



Challenge!

Use this table to record your findings and spot any rules or patterns.

Can you use a ruler or tape measure to measure the actual length of your foot? Write the length in cms and inches!

Inches	Centimetres
1	2.5
2	5
3	7.5