



Your Body as a Measuring Tool

Your body can be used as a measuring tool when you don't have a measuring tape conveniently with you. Although it's a nonstandard unit of measurement, it's conveniently with you all the time. It might also help you remember the measurements, because you have to use parts of your body instead of inches, feet and yards. Below are examples of how various body parts are used for measuring.

- **foot:** It probably goes without saying that the unit *foot* was based on the length of a man's foot.
- **span:** Stretch out your hand so that the tip of your thumb is as far away as possible from the tip of your pinky. That distance is called a "span," which for most people is almost exactly half a cubit.
- **handbreadth:** The width of your four fingers where they meet the palm—usually about 4 inches—is a *handbreadth* or sometimes just a "hand." The height of horses is usually expressed in hands.
- **digit:** The width of a finger, which tends to be about 2cm (about $\frac{13}{16}$ of an inch).
- **thumb:** The width of a thumb, which was later used as the basis for the *inch*

Your assignment: Go home and measure your bedroom. However DO NOT use a ruler, use your foot. On the back of this paper draw a scale diagram of your bedroom be sure to include and identify the following: Length, Width, Windows, Door, Closet (see example below) **Extra Credit:** Calculate the area of your room in "Square Sneaker" units.

