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Body Parts

Here we are….the first experiment….Sort of.

All we need to do here is get a bit more familiar with how to use what we have available. As far as I am concerned, the only thing that I am sure to have with me for as long as I live is my body…so heck, might as well use it. Throughout the term we will need to make estimates. As you know, things change….with this simple skill, we're gonna be able to measure those changes with nothing but our bodies and brains……So, here we go.

Okay, all we need to do now is find some handy, easily accessible and socially acceptable places that we can use on our bodies as a standard of measure. Let me start with this one….

As it turns out, the distance between my thumb and my pinky is almost exactly 8 inches. Here check it out.

Check out this handy spread.

All right, now you do it.

Fill in this table and be sure to add at least one of your choosing.

Caution!!

I use something called "peer review" to grade papers and such. Be sure your body parts are all on the up and up or you might be finding yourself in an awkward position.

Body Part	Length
Spread between your thumb and pinky (as shown in the first photo)	
Spread between your thumb and pinky (as shown in the third photo)	
Your Height	
The length of any finger.	
Your stride in normal walking.	
A great stride.	
Others	
Others	

Example of how we will use this.

Let's say you want to know how high a tree is… If it's sunny, you can simply walk the length of its shadow and calculate its overall length. You do know how long your steps are don't you?? Now, just measure your shadow. Since you know your height, you can then simply enter the known values into this equation and figure out the height of the tree.

$$\frac{\text{Your Height}}{\text{Height of the tree}} = \frac{\text{Length of your shadow}}{\text{length of the tree's shadow}}$$

So, if I'm 6 foot and I cast a shadow that is 4 foot and a tree I am interested in has a shadow that is 45 feet, the formula would be like this:

$$\frac{\text{6 foot}}{\text{Height of the tree}} = \frac{\text{4 foot}}{\text{45 foot}}$$

$$\text{Height of the tree} = \text{67.5 feet}$$

Cool Huh?