

Measuring in Body Parts

Amazing Fact

In ancient times, records show that length was first measured using body parts – the forearm, hand or finger.

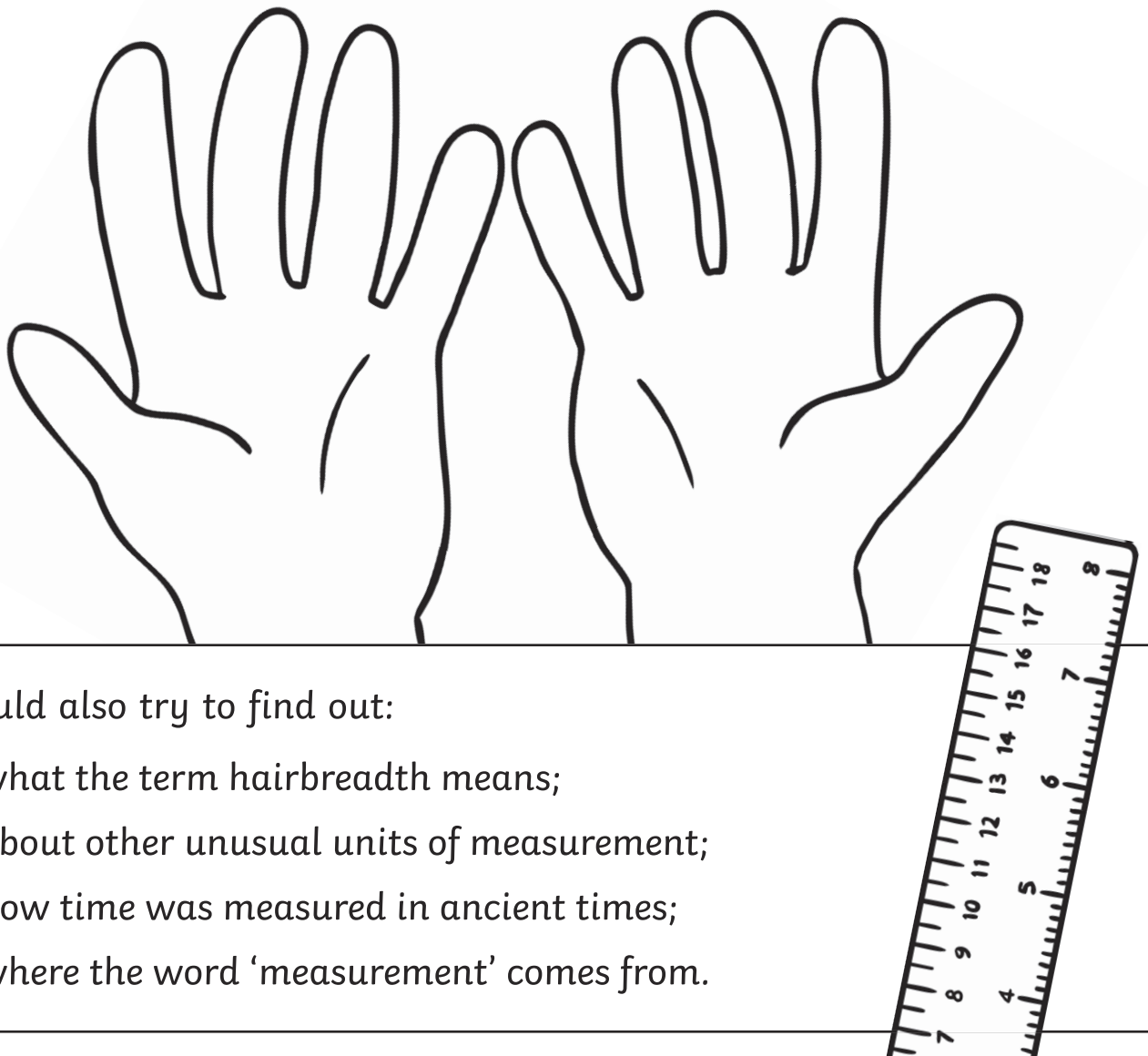
Challenge

Your forearm is the length between your fingertip and your elbow.

Your handspan is the distance between your thumb and little finger when your fingers are stretched out.

Your finger would be your index or 'first' finger

Using your forearm, handspan and finger, choose different objects around the room and measure their length. You might need someone to help you.



You could also try to find out:

- what the term hairbreadth means;
- about other unusual units of measurement;
- how time was measured in ancient times;
- where the word 'measurement' comes from.

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Object	Forearm	Handspan	Finger

1. What surprised you about this way of measuring?

2. Do you think it is an accurate way to measure? Explain your reasons.
