

Math Artifact: Egyptian Cubit

The ancient Egyptians used the “cubit” as their primary measurement of length. A cubit is the length of the forearm from the tip of the middle finger to the elbow. The official or Royal cubit was about 53 cm long. The Egyptians used the cubit to measure short and long distances. To take measurements, they took pieces of long rope and tied equally spaced knots, one cubit apart, in the ropes.

You will construct an Egyptian cubit measuring device and use it to measure various distances in and around school, the playground, and your home.

Make a chart of all the distances you measured and record your measurements on a scroll or on a data table. You will need to record 20 different measurements. Include your cubit when you turn in your chart.

