

Are you Leonardo da Vinci's Vitruvian Man?

- 1. Make sure that you have the right measuring tool for what you are measuring. Do you need a tape measure or a ruler or a metre stick?
- 2. Check that you start measuring at zero and then read the number that is as close as possible to the end of what you're measuring. Be accurate!
- 3. When you write your results, make sure that you include the units of measurement: mm, cm, and m.
- 4. Answer the question in the last column.

What to measure	Measurement	Question
The width of your palm		Are these 2
The width of four fingers		the same?
Your height		
The distance from fingertip to fingertip with your arms outstretched.		Are these 3 the same?
The distance from your hairline (where your forehead stops and the hair begins) to the bottom of your chin. Now multiply by 10.		

Challenge: Now investigate one of your choice.



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What to measure	Measurement	Question
Your height		Are these 4 the same?
The distance from fingertip to fingertip with your arms outstretched.		
The width of your palm. Multiply by 24.		
The distance from your hairline (where your forehead stops and the hair begins) to the bottom of your chin. Now multiply by 10.		
The length of your hand from the bottom of your palm to the tip of your longest finger.		Is this a tenth of your height?
The distance from your elbow to the tip of your longest finger.		Is this a quarter of your height?

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What to measure	Measurement	Question
Your height		Are these the same?
The distance from fingertip to fingertip with your arms outstretched.		
The width of your shoulders.		Is this 1/4 of your height?
The distance from your elbow to your armpit.		Is this 1/8 of your height?
The length of your foot from your heel to the tip of your longest toe.		Is this 1/6 of your height?
The distance from the top of your head to the bottom of your chin.		Is this 1/8 of your height?

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Vitruvian Man Proportions

- a palm is the width of four fingers
- a foot is the width of four palms (i.e., 12 inches)
- a cubit is the width of six palms
- a pace is four cubits
- a man's height is four cubits (and thus 24 palms)
- "erit eaque mensura ad manas pansas"
- the length of a man's outspread arms (arm span) is equal to his height
- the distance from the hairline to the bottom of the chin is one-tenth of a man's height
- the distance from the top of the head to the bottom of the chin is one-eighth of a man's height
- the distance from the bottom of the neck to the hairline is one-sixth of a man's height
- the maximum width of the shoulders is a quarter of a man's height
- the distance from the middle of the chest to the top of the head is a quarter of a man's height
- the distance from the elbow to the tip of the hand is a quarter of a man's height
- the distance from the elbow to the armpit is one-eighth of a man's height
- the length of the hand is one-tenth of a man's height
- the distance from the bottom of the chin to the nose is one-third of the length of the head
- the distance from the hairline to the eyebrows is one-third of the length of the face
- the length of the ear is one-third of the length of the face
- the length of a man's foot is one-sixth of his height