

Measuring Up, Metric Style

Has anyone ever told you that you're grinning from ear to ear? Of course it's not really possible for your smile to stretch that far. But if it were possible, how big would your smile be? You're about to find out!

First, estimate the distance in centimeters going from one of your earlobes, down under your chin, to your other earlobe, as shown here.

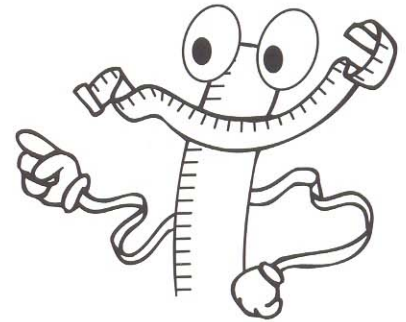


I estimate that my ear-to-ear distance is _____ cm.

Next, stretch your string as shown to determine the actual distance. Keep your fingers on the string to mark how far it reached. Stretch the string out beside your metric ruler or measuring strip. What was the actual distance to the nearest centimeter? Record it in the chart below. Then record your other group members' ear-to-ear measurements. Finally, calculate your group's mean.

Name	Ear-to-Ear Measurement (cm)

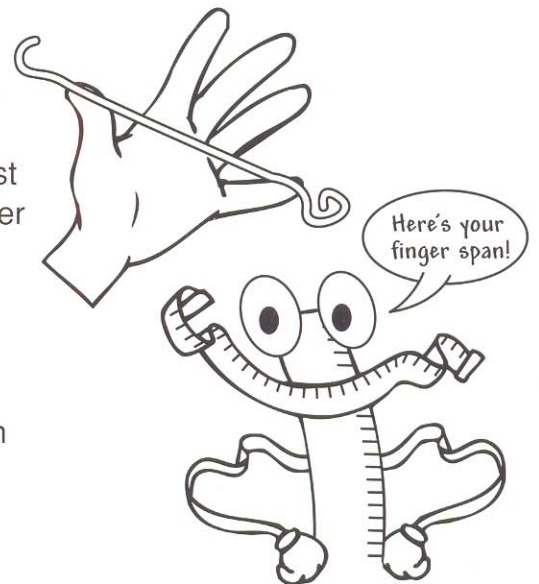
My group's mean ear-to-ear distance is _____ cm.



How close was your estimate to the actual number? Give yourself a hand! And speaking of hands, next you're going to estimate your finger span. Spread out your fingers on one hand as far as you can. Estimate the distance in centimeters from the tip of your thumb to the tip of your pinky finger.

I estimate that my finger span is _____ cm.

Next, find a partner to use a piece of string to measure the distance. Then stretch the string out by your metric ruler or measuring strip to determine the actual distance to the nearest centimeter. Record it in the chart below. Then record your other group members' finger-span measurements.



Name	Finger-Span Measurement (cm)

My group's mean finger span is _____ cm.

Bonus Box: Create a bar graph to display your group's ear-to-ear measurements. Label each bar. Which student would have the biggest ear-to-ear grin?