

Measure like a Roman!

Roman measured things a little bit differently to how we do today, but we still use some of their ideas.

Let's make a Roman Ruler!

1. Cut a long thick strip of paper or card.
2. Mark every 1.8 cm/ 18mm. This is a Roman measurement called a *digitus*, and is nearly the same as the width of one of your fingers.
3. Mark out your ruler like this all the way to the end.
4. Decorate your ruler. You may want to colour in each *digitus* a different colour.
5. You could also use Roman numerals to label your ruler.
6. Measure things in your home using your Roman ruler – how long is your TV? How tall is your lamp? What else can you measure?

4 *digiti* make 1 *palmus* (a palm) – the width of your hand.

16 *digiti* make 1 *pes* (a Roman foot) – the length of your foot.

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