A SPARKATLAS PACK FOR LITTLE EXPLORERS

Long Stick, Short Stick

Hunt for big and tiny treasures, line up sticks from short to long and find out how many hands long things are.



INSIDE THIS PACK

02 Grown-up guide: one minute to read
03 Big and small hunt
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YOU'LL NEED

- a few sticks of different lengths
- string, ribbon or a paper strip
- scissors (for a grown-up)
- crayons

TIME

About 10 to 15 minutes a page

Our measuring walk

Date _____ Where we went _____

Today's weather · Circle one ◯ sunny ◯ cloudy ◯ rainy ◯ windy

AGES Sprout 2–3 Seedling 3–5 Sapling 5–7

Each activity page shows its band.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Small children compare all day long: the bigger piece, the longer turn, the taller tower. Comparing real things teaches words like longer, shorter and about the same, and that is where measuring begins.

Before You Start

A one-minute read for grown-ups.

How to use it (about 10 to 15 minutes a page)

1. **Start from their world.**
Begin with what they already compare: towers, shoes, who is taller.

2. **Use real things.**
Sticks, stones, shoes and hands. Measuring is easier to feel with your hands than to see on paper.

3. **Guess first.**
A guess, even a wild one, makes the count exciting. No guess is wrong.

4. **Stop while it's fun.**
One page is plenty. Come back another day.

Three ways to play

Sprout 2–3

Point and name: big leaf, tiny leaf. Hold two sticks side by side and say which is longer.

Seedling 3–5

Line up three to five sticks from short to long and count hands along a table.

Sapling 5–7

Guess before measuring, compare your count with a grown-up's and explain why they differ.

Little safety notes

Collect only fallen sticks, leaves and stones; look at plants and bugs without picking. Carry long sticks pointing down and walk, don't run. Keep string away from necks and put it away after. Scissors are for grown-ups. Wash hands after.

Printing tips

Page 1 is the cover. To save ink, print pages 2 to 6 only. Every page works in black and white, on Letter or A4.

Wonder out loud together

- What is the longest thing you can think of?
- How could we measure a tree?
- Would a giant and a mouse measure a table the same?
- What is about as tall as you?

FOR GROWN-UPS

Words like longer, shorter, taller and about the same are the real goal. Say them often, and let numbers come later for little ones.

03

Big and Small Hunt

Find a big one and a little one of each.

Look on a walk. Tick each box when you find it. Hold the two side by side to compare.

Leaves



☐ a big leaf



☐ a tiny leaf

Sticks



☐ a long stick



☐ a short stick

Stones

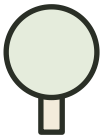


☐ a big stone



☐ a small pebble

Plants



☐ a tall tree



☐ a tiny plant

Puddles



☐ a big puddle



☐ a small puddle

Your own pair

☐ big

☐ small

FOR GROWN-UPS

Pairs make comparing easy: two leaves side by side show big and small better than any picture. Words like tiny and huge grow a child's vocabulary too.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Look for just leaves and sticks. Hold them up together and say big or small.
Stretch: Find something in between too: bigger than the small one, smaller than the big one.

04

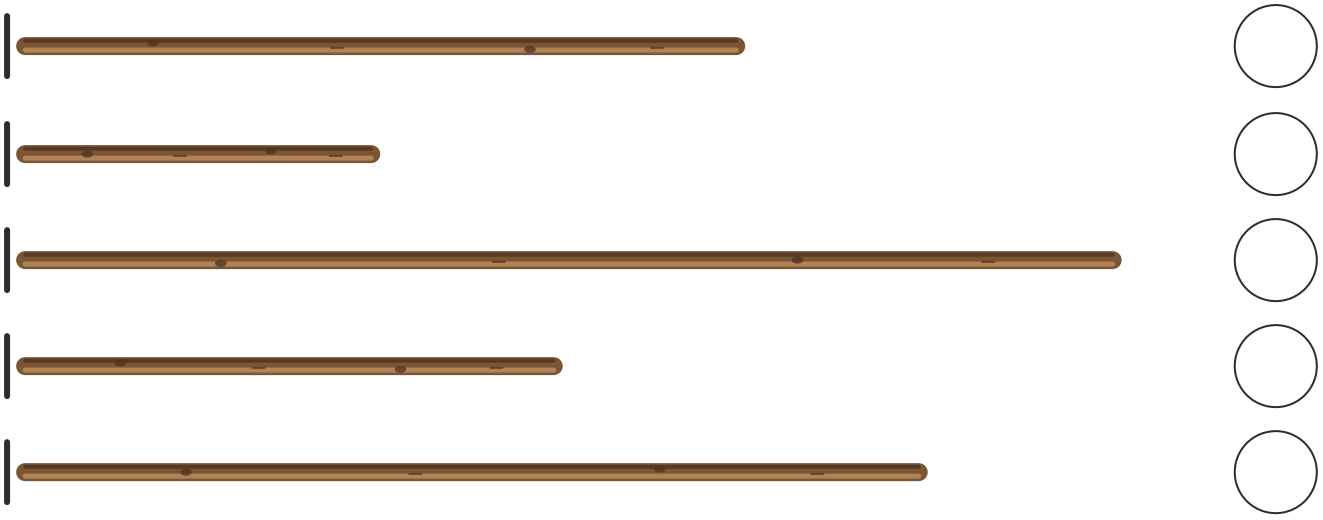
Short to Long

Which stick is shortest? Which is longest?

Run your finger along each stick from the start line. Then write a number in its circle.

Number the sticks

Write 1 by the shortest stick and 5 by the longest. Little ones can colour the longest one.



Line up real sticks

Collect five sticks small enough to fit. Put one end of each on the start line, then order them from short to long.

Start line

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Wonder together

- Which stick would make the best walking stick?
- Can you find a stick longer than your arm?
- What changes if one stick starts after the line?

FOR GROWN-UPS

Putting things in order by length is the first step to measuring. Starting at the same line is the big idea: it makes comparing fair.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Use just two or three sticks: which is longer? Then add one more.

Stretch: Find a stick that fits between two others in your line. Where does it go?

05

How Many Hands Long?

Measure real things with your hands, feet or a stick.

Guess first. Then measure, count and write the number. Tick what you measured with.

	I guess	I counted	hands	feet	sticks
a table			☐	☐	☐
a long stick			☐	☐	☐
a box			☐	☐	☐
your room, wall to wall			☐	☐	☐
a grown-up, lying down			☐	☐	☐
Your idea: _____			☐	☐	☐

✦ Your hands or mine?

Measure the same table with your hands, then with a grown-up's hands.

my hands ◯

a grown-up's hands ◯

✦ A checked fact

Long ago, people measured with their bodies. A cubit was the length from elbow to fingertip. Bodies differ, so people later agreed on fixed lengths, like the metre.

FOR GROWN-UPS

Measuring with hands and feet shows what a measurement is: the same unit again and again, with no gaps. The grown-up test shows why rulers were invented.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Measure one thing together, placing hand after hand and counting out loud.

Stretch: Measure the same thing with hands and with feet. Why are the numbers different?

As Tall as Me

Make a strip as long as you, then go and compare.

Make your strip with a grown-up. Hold it up to things, then draw what you find in each box.

Make your own strip

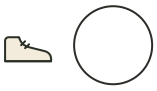
1. Lie flat on the floor, from head to heels.
2. A grown-up lays string or a paper strip beside you and cuts it.
3. Take your strip on a walk and hold it up to things.

↑ Taller than me

= About the same

↓ Shorter than me

Measure me on the floor:



shoes long



hands long

Wonder together

- Will your strip still fit you next year?
- What is the tallest thing you found?
- Is a grown-up's strip longer than yours? By how much?

FOR GROWN-UPS

Comparing things to their own body gives children a measuring tool they always carry. Save the strip and measure again in a few months: growing becomes something you can see.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Compare just two things: hold the strip up to a chair, then a door.

Stretch: Fold your strip in half. Find things that are half as tall as you.