

Measuring in Feet

Makes a change from centimetres!

So you think your Maths books are old ? Here is an extract from "Robinson's Progressive Practical Arithmetic for Common Schools and Academies" 1877

Surveyor's Long Measure

A Gunter's Chain used by land surveyors, is 4 Rods or 66 feet long and consists of 100 links.

7.92 inches	=	1 Link	l
25 Links	=	1 Rod	rd
4 Rods or 66 feet	=	1 Chain	ch
80 Chains	=	1 Mile	mi

Going even further back to the 16th Century we discover the origin of the Rod or *Rood* in a German treatise which instructs the surveyor to establish the length of a rood thus:

"Stand at the door of a church on a Sunday and bid 16 men to stop, tall ones and small ones, as they happen to pass out when the service is finished; then make them put their left feet one behind the other, and the length thus obtained shall be a right and lawful rood to measure and survey the land with, and the 16th part of it shall be a right and lawful foot."

(Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia, 1929 edition.)

CensusAtSchool is asking for the length of your right foot. **If we take a random sample of 16 lengths do you think we will keep getting the same total length?**

When the results are in we will give you a selection of foot lengths to try this out with. In the meantime you could use these made up foot lengths (cm). Choose 16 using a random method. (You may need to discuss what this is.) Add up the lengths and write down your total. **Repeat** a number of times then try to come to a conclusion.

28	30	27	33	24	18	34	30	23	22	22	28
25	28	17	21	21	33	17	28	19	25	17	19
16	31	21	32	30	28	17	28	31	25	34	22
19	22	24	29	22	30	32	22	33	26	28	29
24	28	34	27	23	34	33	28	21	18	25	16
21	20	25	28	30	29	21	29	18	25	28	31
31	31	19	20	32	16	21	28	29	20	21	16
31	26	17	24	17	34	18	22	26	22	21	19

Investigate within your own class.