



Measure a *Triceratops*

From the tip of its nose to the end of its tail, the average adult *Triceratops* was about 30 feet (9 meters) long—almost as long as a city bus! Find out how you compare to the size of a *Triceratops* in this outdoor measuring activity.

Materials

Tape measure
Sidewalk chalk

Directions

1. **Find** a safe space outside where you can draw on the ground with sidewalk chalk. Make sure the space is big enough to fit a *Triceratops*, at least 30 feet (9 meters) long.
2. **Draw** a mark on the ground where the nose of the dinosaur will start and write the word “nose” next to the mark.
3. **Measure** out 10 feet (3 meters) with a tape measure and **draw** another mark. **Draw** a straight line from the first mark to the second mark.
4. **Measure** out another 10 feet (3 meters) and **draw** a third mark. **Draw** a straight line from the second mark to the third mark.
5. **Measure** out another 10 feet (3 meters) and **draw** a fourth mark. **Draw** a straight line from the third mark to the fourth mark. **Write** the word “tail” next to the fourth mark. From the nose mark to the tail mark, this is how long a *Triceratops* was!

NOSE •—————•—————•—————• TAIL

Compare

1. **Lie down** next to the line with your feet next to the tail mark. **Mark** just below your feet with a piece of chalk and **write** the word "**feet**" next to the mark. **Mark** above your head and **write** the word "**head**" next to the mark.
2. **Draw** a line from the first mark to the second mark and then **measure** the length of the line to find out how tall you are. **Write** that number down next to your line.
3. **Measure a line** the same length as your height starting at your head mark. **Draw** another mark here and then draw a line connecting the two marks.
 - a. For example, if you are 45 inches tall, measure and draw another line that is 45 inches long.
4. **Repeat** measuring out your height and marking the lengths until you reach the end of the *Triceratops* tail.
5. How much longer is a *Triceratops* than you?
 - a. Hint: Look at the number of segments you drew, or the number of lines between two marks.
 - b. For example if you drew 8 segments, that means that a *Triceratops* is 8 times longer than you are tall!