



CONTENT BASED TEACHING + PLURILINGUAL/CULTURAL AWARENESS
CONBAT

BODY PART MATHEMATICS

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WORKSHEET 4: BODY PART MEASURING IN EUROPE


Resources: worksheet 4

Focus on content: measures

Focus on languageS: dictionary skills + French, Czech, Italian, English



Timing: 25 minutes

Grouping:  Learners work in pairs. After finishing task 4, they share their results with the others in class.



LEARNER WORKSHEET 4: BODY PART MEASURING IN EUROPE



Task 1: Read the text using the dictionary to clarify the meaning of unknown words.

“ ... 4 fingers make a palm, and 4 palms make a foot; 6 palms make 1 cubit, 4 cubits make a man's height, and 4 cubits make one pace ... ”

From: *The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci* (original edition 1883).



Task 2: Measure yourself or each other to verify the above statement.



Task 3: Compare the names of measures in English, Czech, French and Italian. Complete the table below.

4 doigts font une paume, et 4 paumes font un pied; 6 paumes font une coudée, 4 coudées font la taille d'un homme, et 4 coudées font un pas ...

4 diti fa un palmo, e 4 palmi fa un pie; 6 palmi fa un cubito, 4 cubiti fa un homo, e 4 cubiti fa un passo ...

4 prsty představují dlaň a 4 dlaně jsou jedna stopa; 6 dlaní představuje 1 loket, 4 lokte představují výšku člověka a 4 lokte představují i krok ...

ENGLISH	CZECH	FRENCH	ITALIAN	YOUR LANGUAGE
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4 fingers

a palm

a foot

1 cubit



Follow up activity for the whole class:

Can you give examples of body part counting or measuring in your culture?

Notes for the teacher: *Worksheet 4*

Task 3 - Answer sheet:



ENGLISH	CZECH	FRENCH	ITALIAN
4 fingers	4 prsty	4 doigts	4 diti
a palm	dlaň	une paume	un palmo
a foot	stopa	un pied	un pie
1 cubit	loket	une coudée	un cubito

Additional information:

1. Not all body parts translate directly into measures, e.g.

English: 1. elbow (body part), 2. cubit (an ancient unit of length equal to the length of the

arm between the wrist and the elbow)

Czech: loket [loket] = both a body part and an old unit of length

2. In some languages, number 1 is expressed by an indefinite article.

Follow up activity:

It is advisable that the learners share their results with the others. To do this, the teacher can use the board or other means. Even though this is primarily a writing task, the learners can be encouraged to pronounce “their” words. They should also tell the others if these units of length are used in their culture and how.

References:

Favilli, F. (ed.). *Lower Secondary School Teacher Training in Mathematics. Comparison and best practices*. Pisa: Edizioni Plus – Pisa University press, 2006, p. 145. lim.dm.unipi.it

The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci, Vol. 1 (of a 2 vol. set in paperback) pp. 182-3, Dover, ISBN 0-486-22572-0 (J. P. Richter, original edition 1883).