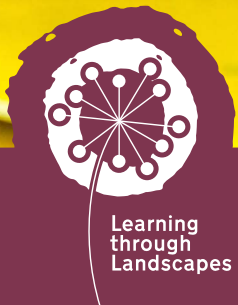




Cross-curricular  
Age 8-11

# Historical home footprints

- Measurements and properties of shapes



## Overview

- This activity uses real-life maths to recreate the footprint of a typical house from a past society, allowing pupils to walk around an ancient house, visualise home life, and compare it with their own.

## Learning outcomes

- To understand how ordinary people lived in past societies.
- To use measurements and properties of shapes in real situations.

## Equipment

- Chalk (for tarmac) or ropes/non-sticky tape and tent pegs (for grass)
- House dimensions and either a description, artist's impression, or diagram
- Tape measures, set squares, and protractors
- Signs for rooms and features (e.g. bedroom, fireplace, etc.)

## Activity

1. Task pupils with finding out typical dimensions and internal layout for a house in your chosen time period (e.g. Roman villa, Viking longhouse, mud-walled house in ancient Baghdad).
2. Find a space outside which is large enough to create a floorplan. Ask pupils to estimate it before measuring.
3. Allocate roles for pupils (surveyors, builders, designers, decorators, etc.) and ask them to use the equipment to mark out the footprint, remembering to mark corners and doorways, and add signs to label the rooms and features.
4. Discuss and compare whether the footprint and rooms are anything like where they live.

## Further activities

Literacy and language	Diary writing	Write a historical diary entry about home life
Mathematics	Number and shape	Calculate floor tiles per room, perimeters, and how many bricks or wattle panels are needed, converting to different units and exploring the properties of shapes
Design and technology	Using a range of materials	Build a replica house by building low walls or planting willow cuttings
Drama	Role play	Use the houses to act out a village gathering or an event
ICT	Using technology	Create audio tours with a historical or technological theme, or make interpretation materials

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