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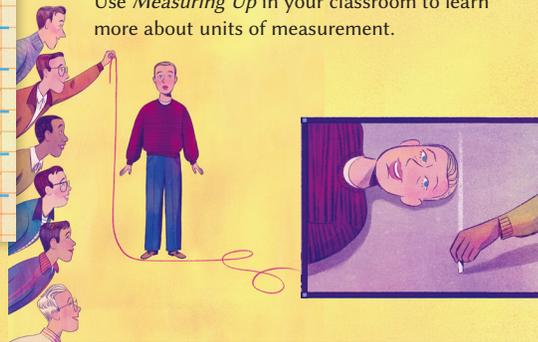
MEASURING UP

HOW OLIVER SMOOT BECAME A STANDARD UNIT OF MEASUREMENT

Jenny Lacika illustrated by Anna Bron

Could one of your students be the next smoot? One MIT student's diminutive height becomes his mathematical superpower—and claim to fame—in a true story that's entertaining and inspiring in equal measure.

Use *Measuring Up* in your classroom to learn more about units of measurement.



mit Kids Press • TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Discuss with your class the why having standards in measurement is important. Ollie and his friends were measuring distance. What other things can be measured? Share the More Measurements page in the back matter for some fun examples.
- Have students use items that are all the same size, like paper clips or craft sticks, as units to measure other items around the classroom. Explain that they will line units up end-to-end, without any gaps, alongside the item they'd like to measure, then count the number of units. Ask them to try estimating how many units long an item will be before measuring, record their estimate, and then record the actual measurement.
- Ask students to pair up to trace the outlines of their bodies on big pieces of paper. Then use different units to determine their heights in different ways and record them on the paper next to their outlines.

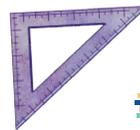
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- One smoot is equal to 5 feet 7 inches, or simply 67 inches. What is one craft stick equal to in paper clips? Have students convert other measurements to new units.
- Conduct a discussion about ways one might measure a curved line.
- Ask your students to line up and compare heights. Who is the tallest? Who is the shortest? Can they arrange themselves by height?



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