

# HOW HIGH IS THAT TREE?

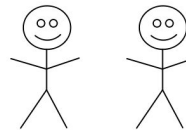
Trees come in many sizes. The **dwarf willow**, considered the smallest, measures only about 2 inches in height. The world's tallest tree is a **coast redwood** growing on a hillside in California. It is 380 feet tall and even has a name, Hyperion. Despite its height, it is so sensitive that forest scientists have not told us exactly where it stands because they want to keep it safe from people who might disturb it. There are more than 60,000 tree species in the world. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources says that over 250 different trees grow in Illinois.



Do you have a favorite tree in your neighborhood? It's probably too tall to climb! Let's measure how tall it is with just a few basic materials.

## Supplies

- Two people (P1 and P2)
- A tree
- A pencil
- A measuring stick or ruler



## Instructions

### 1. Choose a tree and get ready.

Find a tree you would like to measure. Any tree will work. Just make sure you stay at a safe distance from streets, alleys, driveways, or parking lots.

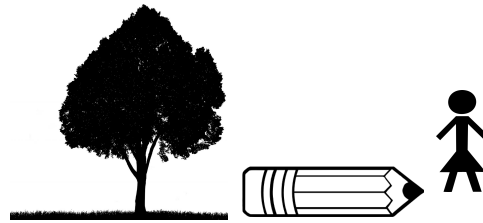
### 2. Estimate how tall you think the tree is.

### 3. Measure the height of the tree without leaving the ground.

- A. P1 stands next to the tree.
- B. P2 (holding the pencil) slowly walks away and turns around every few seconds holding the pencil up vertically.



- C. When it appears to P2 that the top and bottom of the pencil line up with the top and bottom of the tree, P2 stops.
- D. Without moving from that position, P2 flips the pencil in a horizontal line until the eraser looks like it's touching the tree trunk and holds it there.
- E. P1 moves slowly along the imaginary line of the pencil until P1 reaches the tip of the pencil.
- F. P2 uses the measuring tape or ruler to measure the distance between P1 and the tree trunk. That's the approximate height of the tree. How close was your estimate? Switch roles and measure another tree.

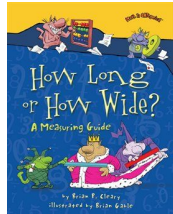
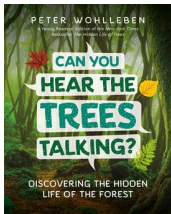


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