



Tabernacle Measurement Activity

The tabernacle was a movable “church” that the children of Israel used as they journeyed through the wilderness and entered the land of Canaan. Map out the tabernacle using the cubit measure of a person’s arm and string or yarn.

Materials Needed

40+ yards of yarn or string

a space large enough to mark out the tabernacle (45 x 15 feet)

optional: 4 sticks, cones or other posts to mark the corners of the tabernacle

Directions

1. The tabernacle was 30 cubits long by 10 cubits wide. A cubit is approximately 18” (15cm), or the length of a man’s forearm.
2. Put a marker in the ground at one corner of the tabernacle you will be building.
3. Use your arm, or a child’s arm, to measure 30 lengths of yarn or string. Starting at the corner you have marked, stretch the yarn out to show the length of the tabernacle. Place a second marker at the end of the yarn.
4. Measure 10 lengths of yarn. Continue a line at right angles to the first line you placed. Place a third marker at the end of the yarn.
5. Measure 30 lengths of yarn to create the opposite side of the tent. Place a fourth marker at the end of the yarn.
6. Complete the outline by taking the string back to the first corner.
7. *Optional:* mark the holy of holies where the ark of the covenant containing the Ten Commandments was kept. It is 10 x 10 cubits, and lies at one end of the tent of the tabernacle. Mark 10 cubits off at one end of the space you have measured to show where the ark was kept.

