

Experiments on Myself



Peter Riley

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Introduction

An **experiment** is a test to find out something.

You begin an experiment by having an idea. It might be, “I wonder how tall I am?”

Next, you guess the answer. This guess is called a **prediction**. It might be, “I think I am four feet (a little more than one meter) tall.”



After the prediction comes the practical, or “doing,” part of the experiment.



The final part of the experiment is the result. This is the “something” you have found out during the practical segment.



Some experiments can only be done if an adult helps you. They are marked with this symbol:



How the Experiments Are Organized

In this book, the experiments are organized in the following way:

Each experiment has a title. The idea for the experiment is in the title.

There may be a list of things you need.

There are instructions for the practical work.

Is Your Foot as Long as Your Forearm?

You Will Need

A piece of paper about 8.5 inches x 11 inches (20 cm x 30 cm)

A pencil

What to Do

1. Put your foot on the piece of paper.
2. Mark the end of your big toe and the back of your heel on the paper.
3. Put your forearm next to the marks.

FACT BOX

The ancient Egyptians used their bodies to measure distances. The width of a finger was a digit, four digits made a palm, five digits made a hand, and a cubit was twenty-eight digits from elbow to fingertip.



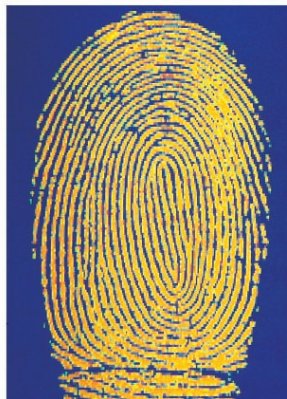
There may be some information for you to think about.

How to Conduct an Experiment

1. Read the title and the information.
2. Make a prediction.
3. Follow the instructions and find the result.
4. Compare your result with your prediction to see how accurate your guess was.

How Many of Your Fingerprints Have Whorls?

The skin on your fingertips has tiny ridges. They may form complete circles and make whorls, or they may make other patterns, such as arches and loops.



Whorl



Arch



Loop

You Will Need

A sheet
of paper

An ink pad

A magnifying glass

FACT BOX

Everyone has their own unique set of fingerprints. Even identical twins have different fingerprints. Your fingerprints stay the same for your entire life.