WOODSHOP LENGTH

What are we doing outside, Captain Kraken?

Today, we'll be measuring lengths and distances.

Pirates used to measure distances in paces.

What's a pace?

A pace is the length of one step.

So, to measure 40 paces, we count out 40 steps.

I counted the steps from my house to the bus stop!

It didn't take as many steps for my mom because her steps are way bigger than mine.

That's true. Counting steps is not a great way to measure.

Not every step is the same length.

And steps are probably hard to count when you have 24 legs!

Aye. Years ago, the pirate council met to find a better way to measure.

They decided to measure lengths with treasure chests instead of paces.

Back then, chests only came in one size.

To measure objects, pirates would lay treasure chests end-to-end.

But, chests were not great for measurin'.

Why not?

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Chests were hard to carry.

And for measuring long distances, pirates would run out of chests.

Mt. MONSTRO 920 chests!

There were lots of other problems, too!

Couldn't pirates just use something that's the same *length* as a chest...

...but easier to use?