



# How far away is that?

Try out this simple activity to measure the distance between yourself and a nearby object

## Suitable for Scouts

### Instructions

**1** Go outside and look for an object in the distance that you can use to measure how far away it is: measure three things, such as a tree, car, streetlight or building.

**2** Hold your arm out straight with the thumb pointing up. Close or cover one eye using your other hand, and move your thumb until it's in line with the object. Keeping your thumb very still, switch over so you are looking at it with your other eye. It will look like the object 'moves' – try and estimate how far it moved. You can use something like the length of a car to do this (about 5 metres).

**3** Multiply the distance it moved by 10, and that will give you a rough idea of how far away the object is. For example: if it moves half a car length, multiply 2.5 by 10 and the object is about 25 metres away from you.



### How to work it out

If your thumb 'moves' about half a car length (2.5 metres):  $2.5 \times 10$  = the object is about 25 metres away.

**Time needed**  
**15 minutes**

### Badge



GO Outdoors partners the Hikes Away Staged Activity Badge

### Partner



### Outcomes

Young people will learn a simple way for measuring distance, which might be useful when on hikes or expeditions. They'll be challenged to measure the distance between themselves and 3 different objects.

### More information

To find out more go to [scouts.org.uk/supporters/go-outdoors](https://scouts.org.uk/supporters/go-outdoors).

### Give it a go

See if you can measure the distance between you and:

1. a tree
2. a streetlight
3. a car