

In this activity, the pirates use simple lead lines to measure “depths” in the classroom and the playground.

Divide the crew into groups of four. Pass out a **lead line** to each group. Point out the markings on the lines and explain that they are in increments of 1 foot. Demonstrate how to use the line to measure a distance in the classroom (such as the distance from the top of the door to the floor).

Explain that they are going to use the lead line to measure a number of different distances. Have the pirates in each group take turns recording the measurements in a T-chart in their **journals**. The following are some distances to measure in the classroom:

- From the top of their desks to the bottom of the sea floor (classroom floor).
- From the top of their chairs to the sea floor.
- From the top of one pirate’s head to the sea floor.
- From the tip of one pirate’s outstretched fingers to the sea floor.

After making and recording several measurements inside the classroom, take the pirates outside to make and record some more measurements. The following are some possibilities:

- From the top of the slide to the sea floor (ground).
- From a number of rungs up the ladder of the slide to the sea floor.
- From the top of the monkey bars to the sea floor.
- From sitting position on the swing to the sea floor.

**Teacher Note:** The pirates do not need to be completely accurate with the measurements. It is more important to get experience measuring a number of distances. Also, since the lead line is marked in 1 foot increments, you will need to help them estimate the distances that fall in between marks (e.g.  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  foot).

## MATERIALS:

- Lead lines

