Da Vinci's Proportions
20S Applied Mathematics
Inquiry Activity

Leonardo Da Vinci was interested in the proportions of the human body. In his famous drawing Vitruvian Man (1487), Da Vinci drew the human body inscribed in a circle and a square. His drawing was based on the work of the Roman architect Vitruvius.

One of Da Vinci's ideal proportions was the hypothesis that a man's height is equal to his arm span. Let's see if that holds true for our class.

Your project for this unit is to research Da Vinci's beliefs about the human body's proportions and test one of them. You may use measuring instruments and what you have learned about linear regression models to aid you in this task.

You must present your findings to the class at the end of the project, giving evidence to support why or why not Da Vinci's belief about a certain proportion of the human body can be considered true. Your presentation must demonstrate logically as well as mathematically how you have arrived at your decision. Use PowerPoint to prepare slides to help you in the task of presenting this information.

If you have time, do a little extra research and tell us something more about Da Vinci or Vitruvius that is mathematically interesting.

You will have two full and one partial class to complete this project so use your time wisely. Presentations will take place on _____. You may work with a partner if you so choose.