

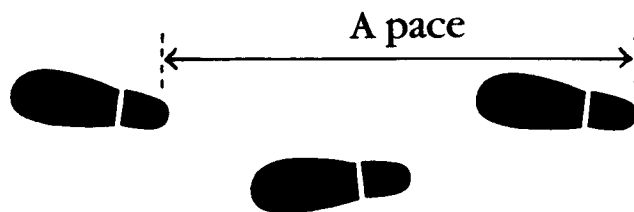
Compass & PACING

FOR-47

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Pacing is a simple means of measuring linear distance by walking. It can be used outdoors or indoors, in the woods or over land.

Pacing's measurement dates back to Roman times. The Roman pace, measured from the heel of the foot to the heel of the same foot in the next stretch, was about 58.1 inches. Today this is known as the geometric pace, which measures about 5 feet.



To make pacing work for you, you need to know how much distance your pace covers. You can determine this by walking a pre-measured course a few times and then checking the pacing chart below. A pace equals two normal steps, beginning and ending on your dominant foot.

A common use for pacing in forestry is to pace off 66 feet from a tree in order to get a measurement of tree height. This is why you determine your pace on a 66-foot course.

1. Begin by measuring a 66-foot course with a tape measure. You will use this distance to establish your pace accurately.
2. Pace off the course measured at Step #1. Repeat two or three times and compare results.
3. Look up the number of your paces on the chart below to determine how many linear feet each of your paces covered.

EX: If it takes you 24 paces to cover 66 feet, each of your paces is 2.75 feet.

4. When you need to go from one point to another and do not know how far it is, pace the distance. Record the number of paces and multiply your individual pace by the number of paces to get the answer.

EX: If it takes you 10 paces to cover an unknown distance, multiply your known pace (say, 4.26 feet) by 10 to get 42.6 feet.

