Shadow Math

How can you use shadows to estimate the height of something very tall? Try this.

Directions

1 Find someone whose height measures closest to the nearest foot.

Name of person

feet
(to the nearest foot)

2 Outside on a sunny day, cut a piece of string to the same length as this person's shadow. (Measure from the person's feet to the top of the shadow's head.)

3 The tall object whose height you want to estimate is:

4 Use the string from step 2 to measure, end over end, how many lengths fit into the shadow of this object. Write that number here: _____ lengths

5 Multiply the answer to step 1 times the answer to step 4. Write your equation: _____ X _____ = _____

6 The answer to step 5 is the approximate height of the tall object.

The tall object is about _____ feet tall!

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