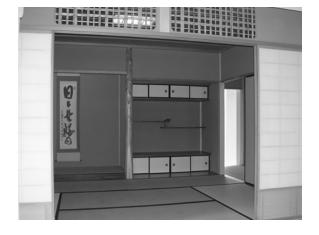
# Tatami Mat Measuring

Target Grades: 3 and 4 Standards of Learning

Math 3.14, 3.18 Math 4.13

## Overview

Students use paper cutouts to measure a Japanese room the old-fashioned way—by the number of tatami mats that will fit inside.



# **Objectives**

- Students will recognize that a tatami mat is a rectangle and that half a tatami is a square.
- They will have experience estimating and measuring an area using a nonstandard unit.

# Essential Question(s):

How are tatami mats used in Japan?

# Management

- Class session or free time activity
- Individuals or partners

#### Materials

- Scissors
- Pencils

# Preparation

Photocopy Tatami Mat Measuring (AP #5) and Paper Tatami (AP #6) for each student or group. Leave activity sheets and scissors out for a free time activity.

## Activity

- 1. Students read the information and follow the directions on the Tatami Mat Measuring activity sheet. They may work on their own or with a partner.
- 2. After they manipulate the paper tatami and believe they have found the solution, suggest that they trace the paper tatami in the worksheet "room" to show the solution.

### Assessment

Students will be able to show the correct configuration of tatami in a 6-mat tea room. They will recognize that the 4 ½ -mat configuration is a square.

## **Variations**

- If you have a roll of 3' wide butcher paper and a yardstick, students can measure and cut out paper tatami to full scale (3' x 6') and use them to measure a space in tatami mat units. This is best done in a hallway or in a room where furniture can be moved out of the way.
- Another option is to have the children arrange the paper tatami to create the flooring for a 4 ½ -mat or 6-mat tatami tea room.

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