

## Unit 1 Activities



**Activity 1.1: Map Quest****Introduction:**

In ancient Hawai'i, when very high ranking chiefs died, special care was taken of their bodies for burial. Their bodies were buried in a shallow hole and covered up. A large fire was then made on top of the body to help separate the flesh from the bones, called *pūholoholo*. The flesh was gathered and put in a container, and the bones were held separately in another container. These containers were then taken by two men who hid them in a secret cave.

One of the men was the keeper, or *kahu*, of the cave. His job was to maintain the secrecy of the location and to take care of the area also. The other person was the *moe puu*, which means 'sleeping together'. He was sacrificed by the kahu because it was believed that the blood would help to protect the chief's body from evil. This also ensured that no one but the kahu would know the location of the body. In some cases, the burial caves were only accessible by rope along a cliff's face and the kahu would make the sacrifice of the *moe puu* by simply cutting his rope to have his blood fall below on the rocks.

The reason that great care was taken to keep these burial places secret was that the Hawaiians believed that there were spiritual powers, or *mana*, in the bones of people. *Pūholoholo* had more *mana*, and creating something out of their bones, like a hook or spear, was believed to be more powerful and more lucky than a normal hook or spear. If the chief's bones fell into the wrong hands, it wasn't only possibly helping out the warring groups, but it was also a great disrespect to the family of the *pūholoholo*.

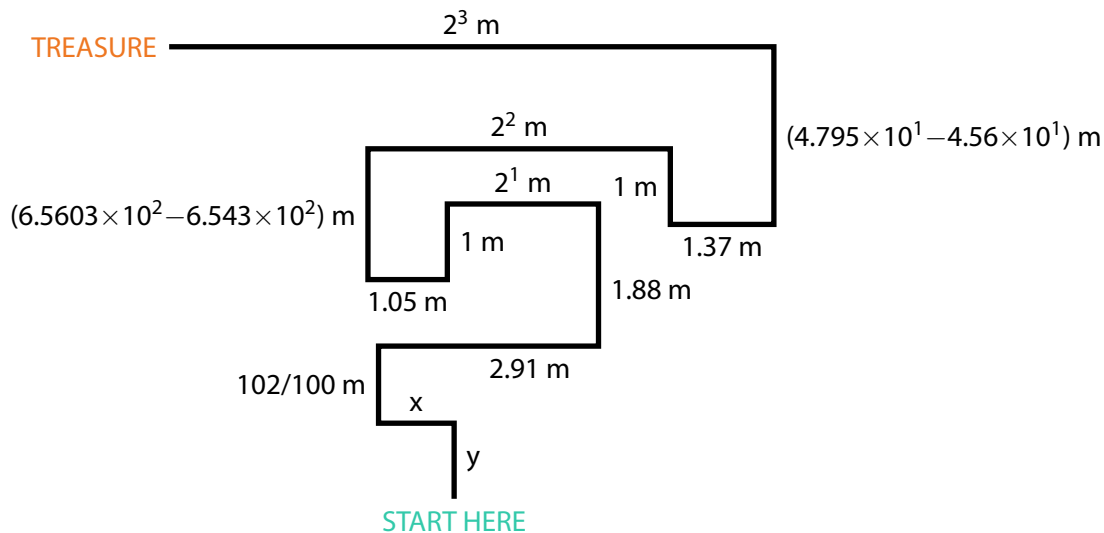
In this activity we will use a map to find a hidden treasure. Note that in this activity we will *not* use traditional Native Hawaiian measurements, which make use of your body to measure things.

**Materials needed:**

1. Measuring tape
2. String
3. Some field area
4. A treasure
5. A few decoy items

**Activity**

Keoni has found a map that he believes will lead to a secret buried treasure. He knows where the starting point is and which direction the map faces. Can you help him to find the treasure?



Keoni's treasure map.

**Instructions:**

1. Using what you know about scientific notation, rational numbers, and exponents, find the distance of each leg of the journey.
2. Using a piece of string, measure out enough for each leg of the journey and mark the distance in increments by placing a piece of tape at the appropriate position on the string.
3. As a group, start from the indicated position and direction. Use the string as a guide, map out the path and find the treasure.

**Questions:**

1. Why would someone create such a crazy map?
2. If you wanted to help a friend find the location of this treasure, what instructions would you write for him/her?
3. What was the treasure? Share some photos in the online gallery.

