You're Covered!

You need: a classmate, a ruler or tape measure, square grid paper, scissors, a calculator

ACTIVITY

Alyx and Jono wonder how much skin they have.

1. a. If skin came in A4-sized sheets, predict how many you would need to cover your head, arms, and hands.
   b. How many hundreds of square centimetres would this be?

One A4 sheet has an area of about 600 cm^2.

2. Discuss with a classmate the best way to find out this area. What will you need to help you? How might you use the square grid paper? How will you record your results?

3. a. Use your method to find the area.
   b. How exact do you think your result is?
   c. Compare your answer with your prediction. How close were you?
   d. Compare results with your classmates. Are they very different?

4. Choose two other objects with tricky shapes (for example, a rugby ball, backpack, computer monitor, or tote tray) and investigate their surface areas. Record your results:

Object	Predicted surface area	Measured surface area	Method used

5. Write at least one sentence saying what you have found out about measuring the surface area of irregular solids.