



GIVING BACK TO THE 'ĀINA

STUDENT READING

NAME _____

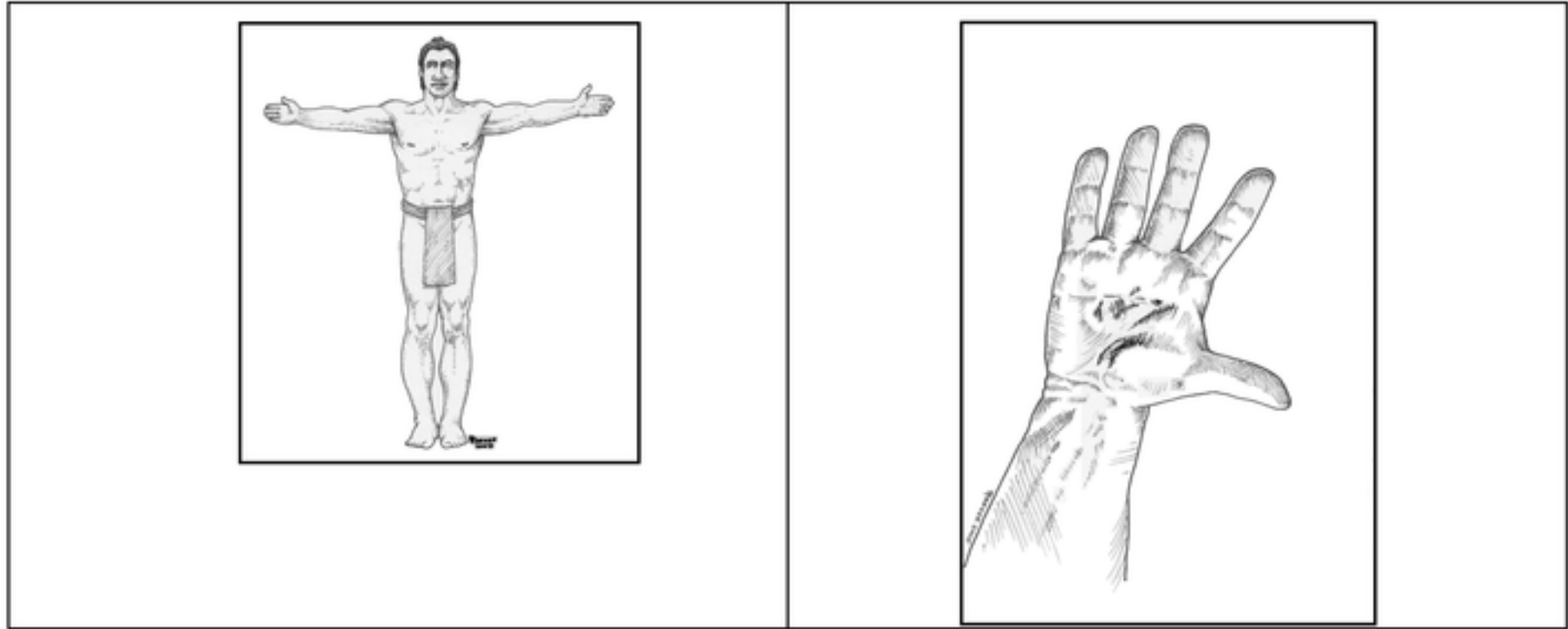
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Measuring Length and Distance

A long time ago, people did not have rulers, meter sticks or tape measures. So they used parts of their bodies to measure things. Measurement is important when building houses, canoes irrigation systems or clothing. Measurement is also important in fair trading. Can you think of some reasons why? For example, what standards did people use to trade things like cordage, *kalo* and fish?

Converting Measurement from Early Hawaiian System to U.S. Units

Hawaiian Units	U.S. Units
<i>poho</i> A measure of half the span of <i>kiko'o</i>	1 inch (approximately)
<i>kiko'o</i> From the end of the thumb to the end of the index finger	2 inches (approximately)
<i>pi'a</i> A measure of one hand's distance	6 inches (approximately)
<i>ha'ilima</i> Distance from the elbow to the middle finger	18 inches (approximately)
<i>iwilei</i> Distance from the collarbone to the tip of the middle finger with the arm extended	36 inches (approximately) (3 feet = 1 yard)
<i>anana</i> Distance from the tip of both middle fingers with the arms extended	72 inches (approximately) (6 feet = 2 yards)



anana

pi'a