Can You Jump as High as a Flea?

Fleas are blood-sucking insects. To get to their dinner, they often have to jump. Fleas are amazingly skilled at jumping. They are very tiny, but they can jump 150 times their height. To find out how high that would be for you, try the activity.

What you do:

1. Measure your height in inches. If you know your height in feet, then multiply that number by 12 to get inches.

2. A flea can jump about 150 times its height. Calculate how many inches that would be for you to jump as high as a flea. To do this, multiply your height by 150.

3. To see how long that jump would have to be, use the measuring tape to mark the length on the ground. Unless you have a very large room to work in, you may need to go outside to do this.

4. It is probably easy to see you can’t jump that far in one leap. Find out how many leaps it takes you to make one flea jump. Aren’t fleas incredible? If they could only learn how to dribble a basketball.

What you need (per group)

- Measuring tape
- Calculator
- Paper
- Pencil