

Million-Year Yarn

Materials

- Length of yarn, long enough to stretch the length of the classroom or longer
- Tape
- Scissors

Instructions

Follow the Suggested Discussion as you proceed.

Choose two children to hold both ends of a long piece of yarn across the length of the classroom or a hallway. If your room is small, you can have several children hold it as you circle around the room with the yarn. This will represent one million years.

Starting at one end, use the tape to mark off three equal short lengths of yarn to represent 2,000 years each. Then cut the yarn at the 6,000-year mark.

Hold the 6,000-year yarn up against the million-year length to compare the difference in the lengths.

Keep in mind that 6,000 is just a small fraction of the entire length of a million, so cut according to the length of the yarn. Technically, 6,000 years would be represented by about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of a 10-ft. strand of yarn. But you may want to cut a little larger piece so everyone can see what you are doing.

Suggested Discussion

Let's see if we can imagine the difference between 6,000 years and a million years!

I'm going to choose two people to help me. The rest of you need to watch carefully. Choose two children to hold the ends of the yarn or several children if you're circling around the room with the yarn.

Now these two are going to hold the ends of our yarn. Stretch it out all the way. Let's imagine that this yarn is as long as a million years! That's a long time, isn't it? Move to one end and put a piece of tape on the yarn to mark 2,000 years. Here is where 2,000 years would be. Mark another 2,000 year segment. Here is where 4,000 years would be. Mark another 2,000 year segment. So, here is where 6,000 years would be. That is just a tiny part of a million years!

? A million years is really long isn't it? What about just 6,000 years? Is that longer or shorter? Shorter. Hold up short yarn.

? How do we know how old the earth really is? The Bible tells us.

? Who remembers how old the earth is according to what the Bible says? 6,000 years old.

That's right, 6,000 years old. But many people don't believe what the Bible says. They believe that the earth is a lot older than that—at least a million years old!

? Why do some people think the earth is over a million years old? They don't believe the Bible.

? How about you? Do you believe God's Word is true? Yes. Encourage them to think about what they believe.