

Draw a really big spiral in the playground!

This is just a giant version of “drawing a spiral from the outside-in” using a rope instead of string, a pole or similar instead of a glass and chalk instead of a pencil.

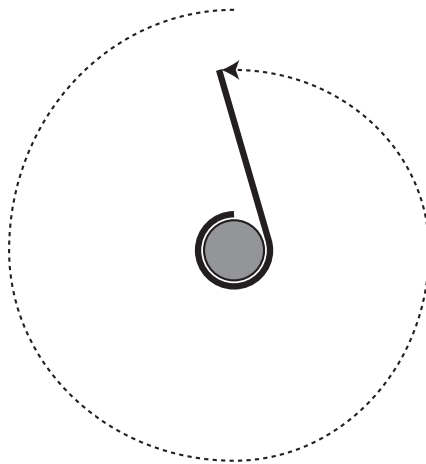
Find a place in the school with a flat surface which can be drawn on (with chalk?) and a stable circular “centre” (maybe a bin or a piece of play equipment?).

You will need a long rope or similar. Anchor the rope around the centre. One person takes the other end of the rope and stretches it out to its full extent. While keeping the rope taut, walk in one direction around the centre, marking the path with chalk as you go. As the rope winds around the centre it will pull the chalk closer and closer, making an Archimedes’ Spiral.

How many times around the centre did you go?

Try a smaller (or bigger) centre.

Try a differently shaped centre. (What about a square or a triangle?)



With a bit more preparation

Mark off 50 cm intervals on a long piece of rope, perhaps by tying ribbons.

Wind the rope around a chair.

Keep the chair still, and unravel the rope keeping it taut. As the rope is unravelled, the 50 cm markers will be revealed. Keeping the rope at right angles to the chair, ask students to stand in the spots indicated by the 50cm intervals as they are revealed.

“Fill in” the curves of your spiral with... more people! ... or chalk (if you are on the asphalt)... or cones... or....

Share!

Take a photograph—this may need some planning to get a good overhead shot—and send it to us!