

How Many NYLAs from Kalamazoo to Timbuktu?

Today, we are going to make up a measure of distance. We will call it a **NYLA**. (or LANY, if you prefer)

A **NYLA** is the distance from New York (NY) to Los Angeles (LA) - about 2500 miles.

New York is the largest city on the east coast of the United States.

Los Angeles is the largest city on the west coast of the United States.

To go from New York to Los Angeles, you have to go all the way across the United States.

That's almost exactly one-tenth of the way all the way around the entire world.

How long will this trip take?

In a fast airplane, a NYLA takes about 5 hours. That's a long time to sit!

In a car, a NYLA takes two whole days and nights, with only a few short stops for gas.

If you drive only during the daytime, it will take almost 4 days to go one NYLA.

Here is a NYLA for a 12-inch globe (a typical size for classroom use). (If you have a different globe, ask your teacher how long to make each NYLA.)



1. Cut a piece of string or ribbon (or just a strip of paper) about 20 inches long. (That is almost twice as long as this whole sheet of paper.)
2. Hold one end of the string on the LA end of the NYLA. Stretch it out along the NYLA. Put a mark on the string where it crosses the NY end of the NYLA.
3. Then put that mark on the LA end of the NYLA, stretch the string along the NYLA, and put a mark at the NY end.
4. Repeat step 3 three more times. You now have a string that is 5 NYLAs long.

You can use that string to measure distances on a globe.

What is the distance from New York to Los Angeles? 1 NYLA. (Duh! That's the definition.)

Here are a few distances between important cities.

Los Angeles to Hawai'i - 1 NYLA.

Los Angeles to Fairbanks, Alaska - 1 NYLA.

New York to Moscow - 2 NYLAs.

New York to Rio de Janeiro - 2 NYLAs.

New York to Shanghai, China - 3 NYLAs.

New York to Sydney, Australia - 4 NYLAs.

Kalamazoo to Timbuktu - more than 3 NYLAs but less than 4 NYLAs.

Use your NYLA string to measure these distances on a globe to check your technique.

5. Now it's your turn. Measure the distance between these places:
(Remember to use the words "more than" if you need to.)

Hawai'i to Shanghai, China _____ NYLAs

New Orleans to London, England _____ NYLAs

Capetown (southern tip of Africa) to Mumbai (west coast of India) _____ NYLAs

_____ to _____ NYLAs

_____ to _____ NYLAs

How many NYLAs to go all the way around the earth? _____ NYLAs