

How Many NYLAs from Kalamazoo to Timbuktu?

Today, we will use a made-up 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.

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

How long will this trip take?

In a fast airplane, a NYLA takes about 5 hours.

In a car, it might take about 4 days to go one NYLA.

Here is a NYLA for a 12-inch globe (a typical size for classroom use).

(If your globe is a different size, ask your teacher how long to make each NYLA.)



1. Cut a piece of ribbon (or just a strip of paper) about 20 inches long. (That is almost twice as long as this whole sheet of paper.)
2. Start with a mark at one end, and make 5 more marks that are 1 NYLA apart.
3. Number them from 0 to 5, so that you have a 5-NYLA "ruler."
4. You can use that ribbon-ruler to measure distances on a globe. Here are a few distances between important cities:

Los Angeles to Hawai'i - 1 NYLA.

Hawai'i to southern 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.

To check your technique, use your new NYLA ribbon to measure these distances between important cities on a 12-inch globe.

5. How many NYLAs to go all the way around the earth? _____ NYLAs
(This is just a check - if you didn't get 10, there's something wrong with your ruler!)

Now it's your turn. Measure the distance between these places.
(Use the words "more than" or "less than" if you need to.)

6. Hawai'i to Shanghai, China _____ NYLAs
7. New Orleans to London, England _____ NYLAs
8. Capetown (south tip of Africa) to Mumbai (west coast of India) _____
9. _____ to _____ _____ NYLAs
10. _____ to _____ _____ NYLAs