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## This sneaker is bigger than a car

The biggest sneaker ever made is almost 21 feet (6.4 meters) long, 8 feet (2 meters) wide, and over 5 feet (1.65 meters) high.

Imagine how big a person would have to be to fit into this sneaker!



Shaq is an all-around big guy. He is 7'1" tall.

Its laces are 75 feet (23 meters) long! The shoe was made in 2013 by the Italian company Superga. It was not made to wear, though. It was on display in Hong Kong, China.



**Basketball stars Shaquille O'Neal** (above left) and Bob Lanier hold the record for largest shoes in the NBA. Both players wore a size 22!



# Activity

## Crazy Laces

There are many cool ways to lace a sneaker. Here's a fun style to try on your own kicks.



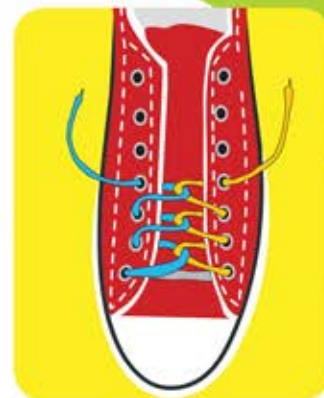
**1** Run a lace straight through the bottom eyelets under the flaps, just as you would normally lace your shoes. You should have an end of lace going to the right and an end going to the left.



**2** Make sure the length is even on both sides. While you hold one lace straight up, wrap the other lace around it once. This will put a loop in the laces.



**3** Bring the laces back down and thread the end of each through the underside of the next eyelet.



**4** Bring the ends up again and wrap one around the other. Thread through the underside of the next eyelet. Repeat until you reach the top.

When you're done, you should have laces that loop back on each other from the bottom to the top of the shoe.



## Timeline



Vulcanized rubber is invented. It is tough and lasts a long time.

Basketball is invented.

New laws say people will work eight hours per day, five days per week. Now there is more time for sports and play.

Velcro is invented.



1839

1850s

1891

1917

1937

1948

1972

1985

2014

Sneakers are invented.

Converse introduces All Star basketball shoes. These are the first to have a sports star, coach Chuck Taylor, endorse them.



The shoe company Nike is formed.

The first Air Jordan sneakers from Nike create a stir. They are popular in fashion and athletics.



Americans spend \$21 billion on sneakers.



## Glossary

- **asymmetrical** (ay-si-MEH-tri-kuhl): not the same on one half as on the other



- **microchips** (MYE-kroh-chips): thin pieces of silicon that contain electronic circuits, used in computers and other electronics



- **synthetic** (sin-THEH-tik) manufactured or artificial, rather than found in nature



- **traction** (TRAK-shuhn): force that keeps a moving body from slipping on a surface



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## About the Author

Chris Jozefowicz began his career as a scientist before switching to writing. He is a former Weekly Reader editor and has written about wide-ranging topics for a variety of publications for children and adults. Chris’s favorite sneaker invention is the little tab for the laces that keeps the tongue from sliding to the side. He lives in Louisville, KY, with his family.