Babylonian Houses

These are the plans for two Babylonian houses from about 2000 BCE. You could either look at the floor area or you could make a scale drawing of one of them.

- How much floor space would you estimate the Babylonians who lived in these houses had?
- How does this compare with the floor space in your house?

Useful information: 1 cubit is the length of a man’s fore-arm, so about 50cm

Source: E. Robson, Mesopotamian mathematics 2100-1600 BC (Clarendon Press, 1999), fig. 9.6, p. 148 (house1, museum number VAT 7031 in the Vorderasiatisches Museum, Berlin) and fig. 9.7, p. 150 (house 2, in the John Rylands Library, University of Manchester).

Babylonian Maths: Babylonian Houses

http://motivate.maths.org/content/BabylonianMaths

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