

# Just the Right Size



## Materials

- *Actual Size* by Steve Jenkins from your local library or view an animated read aloud on YouTube.
- Measuring Instrument (rule, meter stick, yardstick, or tape measure)
- Animal Fact Page (attached)
- Yarn or string\*
- Scissors

\*Note: Yarn or string can be used to demonstrate the length or size of an object. Alternatively, students could use blocks or linking cubes as a visual. If students are able to complete this activity outside, they could use chalk, sticks, or rocks to visualize the measurements.

## Learning Objectives

- I can identify and describe animals of various sizes
- I can use measurement tools to represent the size of different animals
- I can measure and compare the lengths of objects

## Skills

- Language Development
- Problem Solving
- Math Skills

## Exploration

Begin this activity by asking students to consider the size of different animals. Encourage them to list animals that are smaller and larger than they are, and describe the relative size of the different parts of each animal (tails, tongue, legs, neck, teeth, etc.).

Explain to students that they will be learning about the size of different animals and the parts of their body. Read (or view) *Actual Size* by Steven Jenkins and take ample time for students to explore and discuss the illustrations and measurements:

- **What animal is this? What do you know about this animal?**
- **This animal (or animal part) is \_\_\_\_\_ long/tall. Do you think that is taller/shorter/larger/smaller than your \_\_\_\_\_? Why do you think this?**
- **What do you think the animal does with this part of their body?**

With the help of a grown up, students can then use yarn and measurement tools to measure out the length of the animals and animal parts listed on the Animal Fact Page. Alternatively, other manipulatives such as blocks, rocks, or sticks may be used to illustrate the measurements. If students can complete this activity outside, they may wish to draw the size of each animal using sidewalk chalk.

Encourage students to make mathematical observations as they explore:

- **What measurement tools are we using? Why do we need to use these tools?**
- **What is the largest or tallest item we measured today?**
- **What is the smallest or shortest item we measured today?**
- **What surprised you most about what we learned today?**



Animal Fact Page	
The wingspan of an Atlas moth is 12 inches	
The length of a dwarf goby fish is $\frac{1}{2}$ inch	
The diameter of a giant squid eye is 12 inches	
The Mackinac brown bear is 12 feet tall	
An ostrich is 9 feet tall	
The giant anteater is 7 feet long	
The goliath bird-eater tarantula is 12 inches long	
The saltwater crocodile is 23 feet long	
The goliath frog is 36 inches long	
The great white shark is 21 inches long	
The great white shark's teeth are 1 inch long	
The gorilla is 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet tall	
The pygmy mouse lemur is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet tall	
The Siberian tiger is 14 feet long	
The Goliath beetle is 6 inches long	
The Great Walking Stick is 22 inches long	
The African elephant is 13 feet tall	
The giant Clipperton warthorn is 36 inches long	



The wingspan of an **Atlas moth** is 12 inches



The length of a **dwarf goby fish** is  $\frac{1}{3}$  inch

The diameter of a **giant squid** eye is 12 inches

The **Alaskan brown bear** is 13 feet tall



An **ostrich** is 9 feet tall

The **giant anteater** is 7 feet long



The **goliath birdeater tarantula** is 12 inches long

The **saltwater crocodile** is 23 feet long

The **goliath frog** is 36 inches long



The **great white shark** is 21 inches long

The **great white shark's teeth** are 4 inches long



The **gorilla** is  $5 \frac{1}{2}$  feet tall

The **pygmy mouse lemur** is  $2 \frac{1}{2}$  feet tall

The **Siberian tiger** is 14 feet long

The **Goliath beetle** is 6 inches long



The **Giant Walking Stick** is 22 inches long

The **African elephant** is 13 feet tall



The **giant Gippsland earthworm** is 36 inches long