



Actual Size

by Steve Jenkins

Recommended Ages:

5-12

Summary: Just how big is a crocodile? What about a tiger or the world's largest spider? Can you imagine a tongue that is two feet long or an eye that is bigger than your head? Sometimes facts and figures don't tell the whole story.

Discussion Questions:

Before Reading: Define the term "actual size." On the cover, what animal do you think this hand belongs to? What other kinds of animals do you think we will find out about in this book? What other animals are you curious about? Let's discover if they are included in this book!

1. Ask "can you imagine" questions. For example, can you imagine a tongue that is two feet long? Can you imagine an eye that's bigger than your head?
2. What other objects are as big/small as these animals? Have you seen any of these animals before?
3. What is something new that you learned when reading this book that you didn't know before? Which animal did you find most interesting? What animal would you like to see in person?

Activities:

- Give each reader a ruler and have them measure their own hands, feet, fingers, etc. Choose a few animals from the book. Tell the readers the animals' size. Have readers look at their ruler and decide if they could measure it or not. If not, give them a tape measure to show how long/tall the animal really is (you may need to go outside).
- Pick a body part or your whole body and draw it in "actual size" to see how it compares to some of the animals in the book. For example, how big is your eye compared to the giant squid?
- Use a ruler to find objects that are the same size as animals represented in the book.
- Do your own research about an animal you would like to see in the book. Draw the animal in actual size and include information about it as if it were a page in the book.

Adapted from Milwaukee Public Library.