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This book shows the actual sizes of animals and parts of animals. You can compare the size of your foot to the size of an African elephant's foot! Just how big is that crocodile smile? Will a pygmy shrew fit in your pocket?

**Ages:** 2 to 9 years

**Interest Level:**

Toddler to 3rd Grade

**Reading Level:** 2.8

**Lexile:** IG1080L

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**Copyright:** 2011

**Genre:** Nonfiction

**Classification:**

Illustrated Guide



# Actual Size

**Have you ever been eye to eye with a gorilla? How about a giant squid?**

**Topics:** measurement, comparison, ratios, counting

**Math Connections:** *Actual Size* introduces a variety of familiar and less familiar animals by showing each in real size. Ask your child how they compare in size to the different animals in the book. Are you taller or shorter than an Alaskan brown bear? Is a Goliath birdeater tarantula wider than your hand? How much larger is your pinky finger than a dwarf goby? Compare yourself and your child to the animals in the book. Which animals are taller, wider, lighter, narrower, bigger, or smaller?

Introduce your child to different types of measurement – feet, inches, pounds, ounces, etc. Explore informal and formal measurement. Find out how many of your hands can fit across the alligator's mouth. Use a ruler to measure the fingers on the gorilla's hand. How do they compare to the size of your own fingers? Encourage your child to weigh or measure different objects. Talk about what unit of measurement should be used when measuring different animals. Would you measure a giraffe in feet or inches or perhaps both? Have them sort the animals in the book into different groups – animals that weigh less than you do, animals that weigh more than you do, and animals that weigh about the same as you do.

Count what you see in the pictures: the number of legs on a tarantula or the number of teeth in the alligator's mouth. Talk about the symmetry of the atlas moth and Goliath beetle.

Find out how many legs are found on an insect. How many legs are on two insects? three insects?

**Extension Questions:**

1. Are you taller or shorter than a gorilla?
2. If you had a choice, would you like to be the shortest or tallest? Heaviest or lightest? Tell me why.
3. What other really big or really small animals are not mentioned in this book?
4. Why do you think some of the pictures don't show the whole animal?
5. What do you think weighs about the same as a Goliath beetle (3.5 ounces)? (Hint: a standard deck of playing cards weighs about the same as a Goliath beetle.)



<b>Vocabulary for Building Math Concepts</b>	across, as much as, feet, inches, length, long, ounce, pounds, up to, weigh
<b>Vocabulary for Extending Math Concepts</b>	comparison, heavier/heaviest, lighter/lightest, measurement, narrower/narrowest, smaller/smallest, taller/tallest, wider/widest
<b>Vocabulary for Reading Comprehension</b>	atlas, attentive, extended, ivory, lemur, mingle, sensitive, vocal

**Spanish Title:** Tamaño Real

**Copyright:** 2005

**ISBN:** 9788426134998

**Also available in:** Catalan, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Russian

**Related Books:** *Twelve Snails to One Lizard* by Susan Hightower; *Prehistoric Actual Size* by Steve Jenkins; *Biggest, Strongest, Fastest* by Steve Jenkins

**Find this book in your local library:**  
<https://www.worldcat.org/title/actual-size/oclc/765489172?referer=br&ht=edition>



**Early Math Project Resources:**

[Swallowtail Size](#) (English)

[Tamaño de una Mariposa Swallowtail](#) (Spanish)

[Swallowtail Images](#)

[Chalk Animals](#) (English)

Chalk Animals (Spanish)

[Actual Size Kid](#) (English)

Actual Size Kid (Spanish)

**Online Resources:**

Teacher's Guide <https://www.mackin.com>

You will need to create a free account and search for the title of the book. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to find a teacher's guide for this book.

National Geographic Kids

For more animal facts and comparisons go to National Geographic Kids at <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/>. There are a variety of family resources on this site that may be helpful for parents and interesting for children.



Age Level	Related Preschool Foundations and CA State Standards
Infant/ Toddler	<b>Spatial Relationships</b> The developing understanding of how things move and fit in space. <b>Number Sense</b> The developing understanding of number and quantity.
Preschool/ TK	<b>Measurement 1.0</b> Children expand their understanding of comparing, ordering, and measuring objects. <b>Number Sense 1.0</b> Children begin to understand number and quantities in their everyday environment <b>2.1</b> Compare by counting or matching, two groups of objects and communicate, “more,” “same as,” or “fewer” (or “less”).
Kindergarten	<b>Measurement and Data K.MD 1</b> Describe measurable attributes of objects, such as length or weight. Describe several measurable attributes of a single object. <b>K.MD 2</b> Directly compare two objects with a measurable attribute in common, to see which object has “more of”/“less of” the attribute, and describe the difference.
Grade 1	<b>Number and Operations in Base Ten 1.NBT.3</b> Compare two two-digit numbers based on meanings of the tens and ones digits, recording the results of the comparisons with the symbols $>$ , $=$ , and $<$ . <b>Measurement and Data 1.MD.1</b> Order three objects by length; compare the lengths of the two objects indirectly by using a third object.
Grade 2	<b>Numbers and Operations in Base Ten 2.NBT.4</b> Compare two three-digit numbers based on meanings of the hundreds, tens, and one digits, using $>$ , $=$ , and $<$ symbols to record the results of comparisons. <b>Measurement and Data 2.MD.1</b> Measure the length of an object by selecting and using appropriate tools.
Grade 3	<b>Measurement and Data 3.MD.4</b> Generate measurement data by measuring lengths using rulers marked with halves and fourths of an inch. Show the data by making a line plot, where the horizontal scale is marked off in appropriate units—whole numbers, halves, or quarters.

