

Measurement Read-Aloud

Just how big is a gorilla's hand? How small is a goldfish? Measurement is a fun topic to read about because just about everything can be measured. Measuring units like inches and centimeters is useful for comparisons, but what about measuring your height in post-it notes or the length of your hand in paperclips?

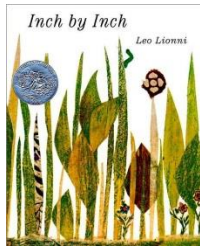
Books about Measurement



Actual Size by Steve Jenkins

Ages 3 to 12

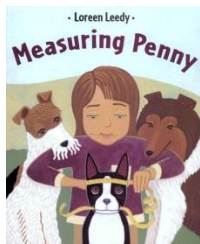
Jenkins' vivid illustrations find a way to show the actual size of animals from the two-inch pygmy shrew to the enormous African elephant, by highlighting the parts that fit on a page. This book doesn't need to be read straight through—you can jump around and choose different animals the kids are interested in.



Inch by Inch by Leo Lionni

Ages 3 to 7

An inchworm measures all the birds it encounters and by doing so convinces them not to eat him. But can it outsmart the nightingale who wants to eat him by measuring its song?



Measuring Penny by Loreen Leedy

Ages 7 to 9

A young girl measures her dog in several different ways and does the same for the various dogs at the park using different units of measurement.

Additional books about Length

The Long and Short of It by Cheryl Nathan and Lisa McCourt (Ages 3 to 7)

Animals' differences make them unique. Compare similar body parts and find out which animals have short or long noses, tails and beaks.

Twelve Snails to One Lizard: A Tale of Mischief and Measurement by Susan Hightower (Ages 5 to 8)

Bubba the bullfrog helps Milo the beaver build a dam by explaining to him the concepts of inches, feet, and yards.

Me and the Measure of Things by Joan Sweeny (Ages 4 to 8)

A child explains the units of measurement in easy to understand terms.

Books about Quantity

Room for Ripley by Stuart J. Murphy (Ages 6 to 9)

How much water do you need to fill a fishbowl? Carlos finds out as he gets ready to bring home his new pet.

Pastry School in Paris: An Adventure in Capacity by Cindy Neuschwander (Ages 7 to 10)

Two kids explore the challenges of measuring while cooking pastries.

Activities

1. The following activities go well with *Actual Size*, but most could be used in isolation and without the book. **Be sure to remove all the masking tape from the floor at the end of the read-aloud.

- a) Measure the tallest kid and the smallest kid at the Read-Aloud for comparison. Use masking tape on floor to mark their height. (You can also measure them as they arrive and are getting their name tags.)
- b) Compare kids' hands to the gorilla hand in the book or to copies of that page. If you have time, trace each child's hand and cut it out to compare the size of the hands.
- c) Pass around dimes for the kids to feel their weight. The animal on the title page of *Actual Size*, the pygmy shrew, weighs less than a dime. Pass around an egg for kids to compare with the size of the ostrich egg picture. Measure the two eggs and compare.
- d) As you are reading, use a tape measure to show how big or small things are, and mark those sizes on the floor with tape too.
- e) Measure out some of the bigger or smaller animals in the book and mark them on the floor. See how many kids will fit in a bigger animal—like an Alaskan Brown Bear—or how many of their hands or feet would fit in a smaller animal like a giant moth.

2. Children love learning how to use a measuring tape and measuring themselves. Let them practice by finding the size of their hands, feet, and heads. They also think it is fun to measure with non-standard units like toothpicks or post-it notes.