

Teacher's Guide

Does an Elephant Fit in Your Hand? A Book About Animal Sizes

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Pre-Reading Questions

What is the biggest animal you can think of?
What is the smallest animal you can think of?
What is an advantage to being a big animal? A small animal?

Questions

What would happen if a hummingbird weighed as much as an elephant?
Why do you think the stout infantfish might be transparent?
How is a crocodile's tail dangerous?
The Kitti's hognose bat is sometimes called the bumblebee bat because it's so tiny. What other nicknames could you give this bat?

Projects

Language Arts: Write a story about an animal that suddenly changes size. What happens? What problem does it have? How does it solve it?

Social Studies: Make a list of 5 things a dwarf gecko can do (because it's so small) that an elephant can't do. Now make a list of 5 things an elephant can do because it's big that a dwarf gecko can't.

Art: Spread out a long sheet of bulletin board paper on the floor. Ask each student to draw a life-size animal on it. Hang it on a class or hall wall.

Math: Have fun with weights. Ask a volunteer to stand on a scale. On the board or an overhead projector, figure out with the class how many of that student it would take to equal an elephant. What about a crocodile?

Do the same thing with sizes. Measure the height of a volunteer. Now figure out how many dwarf geckos could stand up to equal the student. Measure a student's wingspan (armspan—fingertip to fingertip). How many bee hummingbirds would it take to equal this? How many student wingspans would it take to equal one albatross?

Motor Skills/Art: Have each student trace one common small object (pencil, lunchbox, pencil box, box of crayons, etc.) on a sheet of paper. Use information from **Does an Elephant Fit in Your Hand**, **Actual Size**, and **Prehistoric Actual Size** to draw an animal or an animal part inside the outline the student traced.