Size Riddles

Goal: Make and solve riddles that involve measurement clues

Grades 2-6+
Minimum number of participants 2
Suggested grouping divide into pairs
Time 20-60 minutes

Math
measuring; connecting measurements with sizes

Materials
ribbon, or paper strip such as cash register or adding machine
scissors
paper and pencils
rulers or yardsticks
Before beginning

- Choose a size fact from one of the books you gathered. For instance, the giant squid has eyeballs up to 12" wide.
- Cut a length of ribbon (or paper) to match the fact.
- Write a riddle with three clues about the fact. The first should be about the ribbon.

1 What am I?

Read the riddle out loud and show children the ribbon.

Talk About…

Are those eyeballs bigger than yours? Are they bigger than a soccer ball?

Read out the information on which the clues are based. Demonstrate measuring the ribbon.

2 Make your own riddle

Distribute books and materials to pairs. Explain that children make their own Size Riddles. Each should:

- Be based on a measurement fact in a book.
- Include ribbon cut to match the fact.
- Include three clues. One should be about what you cut (length, width, height, or another measurement).

3 Trade riddles

Partners get a riddle and a book in which to find the answer.
Share measurement strategies

Did anyone measure something longer than 3 feet? Can you show how you measured it? What about something less than an inch? What was it?

Variations

Narrow it down (easier). Specify which pages or section of a book to use for clues.

Two dimensions (harder). Include clues about two dimensions, for instance, length and height.

Books with size information about animals, people, or objects


Scholastic Book of World Records. Morse, J. (Scholastic, 2007).

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