Lesson: How big is jinormous?

Phase of learning
Kindergarden - Pre Primary, Years 1 - 2

WA Curriculum
K-10 Mathematics

Summary
Students will measure out the length of a whale shark and compare it to lengths of other creatures in the ocean.

Outcomes

- Students will compare the length of a whale shark to that of other organisms in the ocean to determine which is longer.
- Students will measure to compare lengths using formal and informal units.

Duration
30 minutes

Preparation
This lesson is intended to be used during the study of the book Jinormous Jack. It assumes the Lesson: Welcome back Jack has been completed.

You will need a large open space to complete this activity (your oval would likely be best).

You will also require:

- a tape measure, trundle wheel or a number of metre long rules
- some markers – witch's hats, cones, bean bags or equivalent
- sticky notes or masking tape to make note of what animal, each of your measurements represent.

Western Australian curriculum

LEARNING AREA	STRAND	SUB-STRAND	CODES

Mathematics	Measurement and geometry	Using units of measurement	[ACMMG006,](#)

Steps

1. Recall from your reading of Jinormous Jack, how big was Jack? (according to the story, you could hide a dump truck inside his mouth! Whale sharks are reported to grow to ~18 metres in length)
2. How long is 18 metres? Would it be longer or shorter than e.g. a school bus? Is there anything in the ocean bigger than a whale shark? What about the other creatures in the story? Were they the same size as Jack?
3. How many students head to toe would be the same length as a whale shark? How could we find out?
4. Brainstorm a list of creatures that students would like to know about the size of (a list of some organisms and large objects and their reported lengths may be found below).
   - Blue whale – 33 metres
   - Whale shark – 18 metres
   - Humpback whale – 16 metres
   - Giant squid – 13 metres
   - School bus – 12.3 metres
   - Manta Ray – 9 metres (including tail)
   - Dugong – 4 metres
   - Bottlenose dolphin – 4 metres
   - Queensland groper – 2.7 metres
   - Grey reef shark – 2.6 metres
   - Potato cod – 2.0 metres
   - Bungarra lizard – 1.6 metres
   - Loggerhead turtle – 1.1 metres
   - Spangled emperor – 0.8 metres
5. Take students onto the oval. Place a marker at your starting point and using your measuring device, measure 18 metres and place another marker. Identify your markers as the whale shark.
6. Leave the whale shark measurement in place and measure out the length of the next creature students wished to know about.
7. Continue until you have measured all of the creatures on your class brainstorm list. Discuss with students if the results were as they expected. Were some creatures smaller than they

expected? Were others larger than they expected?

8. Finish by determining how many students (head to toe) are required to be the same length as a whale shark?

Additional Resources

Barrymore, J. 2005, Jinormous Jack. Little Aussies, Fremantle, Western Australia.

Ganeri, A. & Jackson-Carter, S. (2014) Lifesize Ocean, Kingfisher, London.

Lesson: [Discovering Ningaloo Reef](#)

Lesson: [What's the difference – Year 1](#)

Lesson: [Welcome back Jack](#)

Related resources
[Lesson: Welcome back Jack](#)
[Fishy Fun Sheet: Whale Shark - Colour In](#)
[Fishy Fun Sheet: Dot-to-Dot: Whaleshark](#)
[Lesson: What's the difference? (Year 1)](#)
[Lesson: Discovering Ningaloo Reef](#)

Keywords
jinormous jack, measuring, comparing lengths, whale shark size