

Chalk Animals

This is an activity for one or more children.

Goal: To explore informal and formal measuring tools while drawing with chalk.

You will need:



- Chalk
- Access to pictures of an Anteater, Goliath birdeater tarantula, and Pygmy Shrew (using the *Actual Size* book or the internet)
- Standard Measuring Tool (ruler, yard stick, or measuring tape)
- Nonstandard Measuring Tools (napkin, shoe, box, etc.)

What to do:

- Have each child select two nonstandard measuring tools. One tool should be for measuring large objects and one tool for measuring small objects (smaller than your hand).
- In *Actual Size*, readers learn an anteater is about nine feet long, a Goliath birdeater tarantula is about one foot wide, and a pygmy shrew is about two inches long. Using the nonstandard measuring tools, have each child estimate how many times the object will need to be placed end-to-end to reach the actual size of the anteater, tarantula, and pygmy shrew.
- Record the estimates.
- Draw life-size models of the three animals with chalk. The children can draw the animals individually or together.
 - Anteater: Draw a line that is nine feet long using a standard measuring tool. Have the photo of the anteater available for the child to use as a drawing guide.
 - Goliath birdeater tarantula: Draw a line that is one foot long using a standard measuring tool. Have the photo of the Goliath birdeater tarantula available for the child to use as a drawing guide.
 - Pygmy shrew: Draw a line that is two inches long using a standard measuring tool. Have the photo of the pygmy shrew available for the child to use as a drawing guide.
- Measure the anteater, tarantula, and pygmy shrew with the informal measuring tools each child picked out.
- Have the children talk about how close their estimates were. Who was closest?

