Engaging with Mary Mattingly’s Open Ocean: Scale of a Sperm Whale Jaw Bone

A sperm whale is a big animal—very big! Use this page to help you picture just how big it was, exactly.

Choose an item of your own, from home or from your desk at school. Use a ruler to measure its length in inches, and then see how it compares to the whale’s size! Round your answer to the nearest whole inch.

A sperm whale like this would have reached up to 59 feet long!

59 feet x 12 inches in a foot = 708 inches long

I chose to use ___________________. It is ________ inches long.

Now, divide the whale’s length by the length of your item: 708 ÷ _____ = ____

That’s how many units long this sperm whale would have been when it was alive! Wow!