

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: $708 \div \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

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