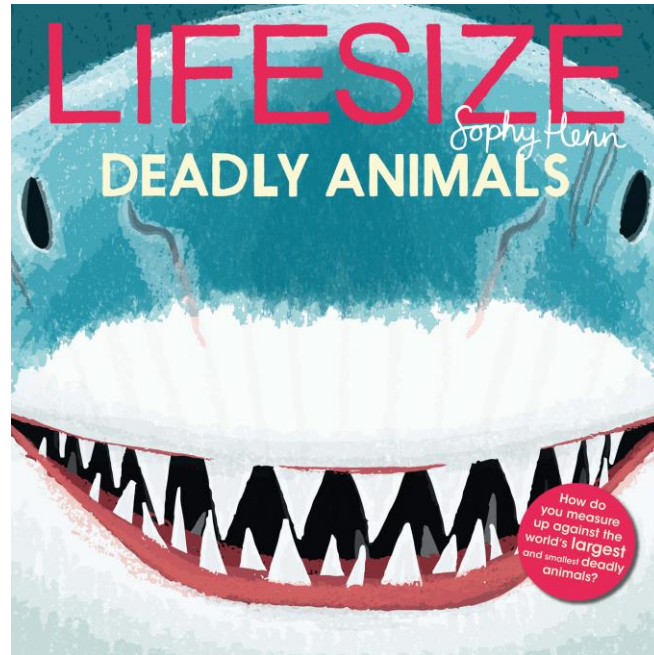


Lifesize Deadly Animals by Sophie Henn

A Sensory Story for those with complex additional support needs (including PMLD.)



We've worked with Sensory Storyteller and Founder of [My Kind of Book](#), Ailie Finlay, to create this resource to accompany Sophie Henn's wonderful book, *Lifesize Deadly Animals*.

Here are some ideas to help you turn this engaging book into a fun interactive sensory narrative.

Before you start, choose how much of the original text to include in your version; you might want to include one fact from each page, or you may want to make it even simpler with just one short sentence about an animal per page. You can also skip pages and/or animals, concentrating on the illustrations and sensory experiences that your pupils will find most interesting or changing the length of the storytelling to suit the needs of your pupils. You may also find it useful to use a black marker to draw round the outline of the animals in the illustrations.

Use props and actions to make the book more interactive. As you do this many pupils will enjoy it if you playfully exaggerate the anticipation and interaction, e.g. *'Uh-oh, the alligator is going to snap you up. Oh no, here he comes! Watch out! He's going to eat you!...Oh no! He ate you all up!'* But some pupils may prefer gentler storytelling where you concentrate

on the sensory elements e.g. *'Listen to the alligator snap...can you hear him? Snap! Snap! Snap!'*

Your sensory re-telling will work well if the last animal from the book that you talk about has the biggest sensory impact. For example, if this is the shark and you are sharing the book in a very interactive way then you might use an inflatable shark toy and 'swim' all around the room with it, playfully 'getting' members of your staff team and pupils. If you are telling the story in a gentler fashion your large sensory experience at the end might be a large piece of blue silky 'ocean' fabric spread out around and over your pupils...

Action and prop Suggestions for some of the animals:

(Choose about five animals for each book-sharing session.)

Eagle Talons: try using some lobster oven mitts as 'talons' – playfully (and gently) grip on to your pupil's sleeves, hands etc. Or simply use your hands as talons to do the same.



Animal claw mitts can be found online for the cheetah, tiger leopard or lion – alternatively become the wild cat yourself and creep up and pounce on your pupils. (Be sure they want to take part in this game and are aware of what is happening so that they do not actually get a fright!)

Dragonflies: dragonflies can be made easily from clothes pegs (just search for dragonfly or butterfly clothes peg craft activity online) or cut a large dragonfly from card to fly around the classroom.



Crocodile puppets are fun - but a good 'snap, snap, snap' with your arms as you 'eat someone up' will also work well! (Hippos also snap like this.)

Frog tongues: party blowers make good frog tongues! Alternatively use a guiro to make a frog noise.



Scrubbing brushes are good for the feel of porcupine quills.



Stretchy plastic spider, centipede and snake toys are all easy to find at a reasonable price online. Snakes could also be improvised by stuffing the leg of an old pair of tights. Alternatively use tactile actions for these. The squeezing of a snake could be imitated by gently squeezing your pupil's upper arms without gripping (if they enjoy this kind of thing). Use your fingers to make a spider or centipede run on the back of someone's hand or up their arm.



Silicon pot scrubbers are good as lion's tongues! Use these to 'lick' the back of your pupil's hands.



'Stomping' with your hands very fast on a tabletop makes a good noise for a charging hippo.

A spiky ball (look online for a 'massage ball') can be used for a porcupine fish.

Strips of bubble wrap taped together at the top are good for the feel of jellyfish brushing against you.

An inflatable shark makes a good end to the story. Alternatively hold up a hand as a 'fin' and become the shark yourself!



Remember – not all of these props recommendations are toys! The props should never be used unsupervised.



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