



You will need:

- Clipboard
- Pencil
- New England Animal Adaptations Guide

Life Drawing

When sketching an animal for scientific notes, it is standard to draw the animal much smaller than it really is. You can often see more detail, however, if you draw your animal at life size.

Hint: Choose an animal in an exhibit where there is an identification tag around that tank. The identification tags usually have the animal's largest possible size. If you need help, ask an educator.

Animal name (scientific or common):

Exhibit name:

Animal maximum size:

Draw your animal here, just making it fit on the page. You will pay attention to size later. Be as detailed as you can. Label colors, patterns and shapes.



You will need:

- Larger paper
- Pencil
- Colored pencils (optional)
- Ruler
- Calculator (optional)

Life Drawing: At-Home Extension

1. Find a piece of paper at home that is big enough to fit your animal at life size. Animal too big? See instructions below to calculate how to draw your animal to scale.
2. Measure out the length of your animal on your piece of paper. Draw a line in pencil so you can erase it after you finish your drawing.
3. Using your notes, draw your animal at life size. As you work, step back every once in a while to make sure that it looks right. Are the fins the right size? How about the head? Make adjustments as you go.
4. Label your drawing with the animal's name and the fact that it is life size.

Drawing To Scale

If your animal is too big to fit on your paper, you can calculate the scale at which you drew your animal.

Your Calculation	Example (African penguin)
Animal size (in inches):	28 inches
Paper size (in inches):	10 inches
Paper size ÷ Animal size:	$10 \div 28 = 5/14$
Round this number to a more useable fraction.	$5/15 = 1/3$
Label your drawing with the scale that you used.	African penguin at 1/3 scale

Scale Comparison

Drawing to scale can also be used to compare two animals of different sizes.

Your Calculation	Example (sharks)
Animal 1 (in inches):	Nurse shark = 10 feet = 120 inches
Animal 2 (in inches):	Bamboo shark = 3 feet, 5 inches = 41 inches
Paper size (in inches):	10 inches
Paper size ÷ larger animal size:	$10 \div 120 = 1/12$
Round this number to a more useable fraction.	
Multiply each animal's size by this fraction.	Nurse shark = $120 \times 1/12 = 10$
Round to the nearest 1/16, if necessary.	Bamboo shark = $41 \times 1/12 = 3 \frac{7}{16}$
Draw your animals at this new size.	
Label your drawing with the scale that you used.	Nurse and bamboo sharks at 1/12 scale