

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS MATH

Grade 3

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INTRODUCTION

A man held the tails of 11 rattlesnakes in his mouth. Eight elephants painted a picture that sold for \$39,000. A tailor sewed a pair of underpants that measured 40 feet from the waistband to the crotch. The largest stick insect is 22 inches long. Welcome to the wild, wacky, and amazing achievements of Guinness World Records™!

Guinness World Records is the authority on feats that are of interest to the world or have historic importance. Since the first publication of *The Guinness Book of Records* in 1955, readers have laughed, gasped, and gagged at the details. Students are especially drawn to the facts. Short, exciting, and to the point, the records open up a fascinating world to explore, in both human endeavors and nature's endless marvels.

It is a natural step to pair students' interests in world records with math. To be a record, the achievement has to have qualities that can be measured (weight, height, distance, speed, or monetary value, for example) and compared (lightest, tallest, slowest, etc.). The numbers provide endless opportunities to practice math skills and strategies in a fun way. Wow, that dog broke the record by jumping three inches higher! The biggest spider could fill my dinner plate! I like roller coasters, so riding one for 405 consecutive hours would be fun. But, wait! That's nearly 17 days!



MAKING GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™

Guinness World Records accomplishments are facts that belong in one of eight categories:

- Human Body
- Amazing Feats
- Natural World
- Science and Technology
- Arts and Media
- Modern Technology
- Travel and Transport
- Sports and Games



Some records are new because they are exciting and involve events that have never been attempted. People with unique talents are also permitted to become record-makers. However, most of the record events are established, and people try to find the ones that they can break.

Guinness World Records receives more than 60,000 requests per year. Record-makers and breakers must apply first so that their attempts are official. The organization sets guidelines for each event to make sure that it can be properly measured. Guinness World Records also makes sure that record-breakers follow the same steps so that each participant gets an equal chance. Professional judges make sure that the guidelines are followed correctly and measured accurately. However, the guidelines may designate other community members who can serve as judges to witness an event. Once the record attempt is approved, the participant gets a framed certificate. The person's name may also be included in the yearly publication or on the Guinness World Records Web site at www.guinnessworldrecords.com.



ABOUT GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ MATH

World Record Themes

Guinness World Records™ Math is divided into five themes, each focusing on 10 to 14 exciting records:

- Amazing Animals
- Earth Extremes
- Wild, Wacky & Weird
- Engineering, Science & the Body
- Game Time!

Math Passages

Each left page features a reading passage about a remarkable world record. This engaging, high-interest passage recounts numeric and human-interest details of the record. A box on each reading passage page provides more amazing records relating to the featured record-maker or record-breaker. Leveled writing ensures success for all students. An eye-popping color photograph of the accomplishment accompanies each passage to support the content.

Math Word Problems

On each right page, five to six word problems focus students' attention on the details of the records, allowing students to practice math skills in a real-world application. Formats include fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, matching comparisons, and tables, graphs, and charts. Problems increase in difficulty and include a variety of math strands and cognitive levels. Nearly every page provides practice in critical thinking skills and mixed measurement conversions.



PRIZED PAINTING



Check this out!

Most Expensive Painting by Elephants

It was 8:00 A.M. Eight artists stood in front of a huge canvas. It was 7 feet 10 inches tall and 26 feet 3 inches long. They needed a big canvas. The artists were elephants!

People from the Maesa Elephant Camp in Thailand tried to win the record for the world's Most Expensive Painting by Elephants. They did it too! When the elephants finished the painting at 2:36 P.M., a woman bought it. She paid \$39,000! The new owner divided the painting vertically into 2 equal parts. One side was put on display. The other side was given to the Prime Minister of Thailand.

MORE AMAZING RECORDS

Oldest Elephant: Lin Wang is an Asian elephant that holds the record for the world's Oldest Elephant. He died in 2003 at age 86.

Heaviest Elephant Lifted: A circus performer lifted an elephant that weighed 2 tons. He used only a harness and a platform. Now, that is one strong performer!

Smallest Elephant—Species: The record for the world's Smallest Elephant goes to the Borneo pygmy elephant. This elephant is 30 percent smaller than an Asian elephant. The average weight of the Borneo pygmy elephant is 5,500 pounds.

Name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions. Show your work.

- Which words express the amount of money that the painting sold for?
 - A. thirty-nine hundred dollars
 - B. thirty thousand nine hundred dollars
 - C. three thousand nine hundred dollars
 - D. thirty-nine thousand dollars

2. **About** how many yards long is the painting?

3. How much time did the elephants spend painting?

4. Round the length and width of the painting to the nearest foot. **About** how much area did the elephants paint?

5. The world's Heaviest Elephant Lifted weighed _____ tons. One ton is 2,000 pounds. How many pounds did the elephant weigh?

6. The owner kept 1 side of the painting, which measured _____ feet _____ inches by _____ feet _____ inches.

