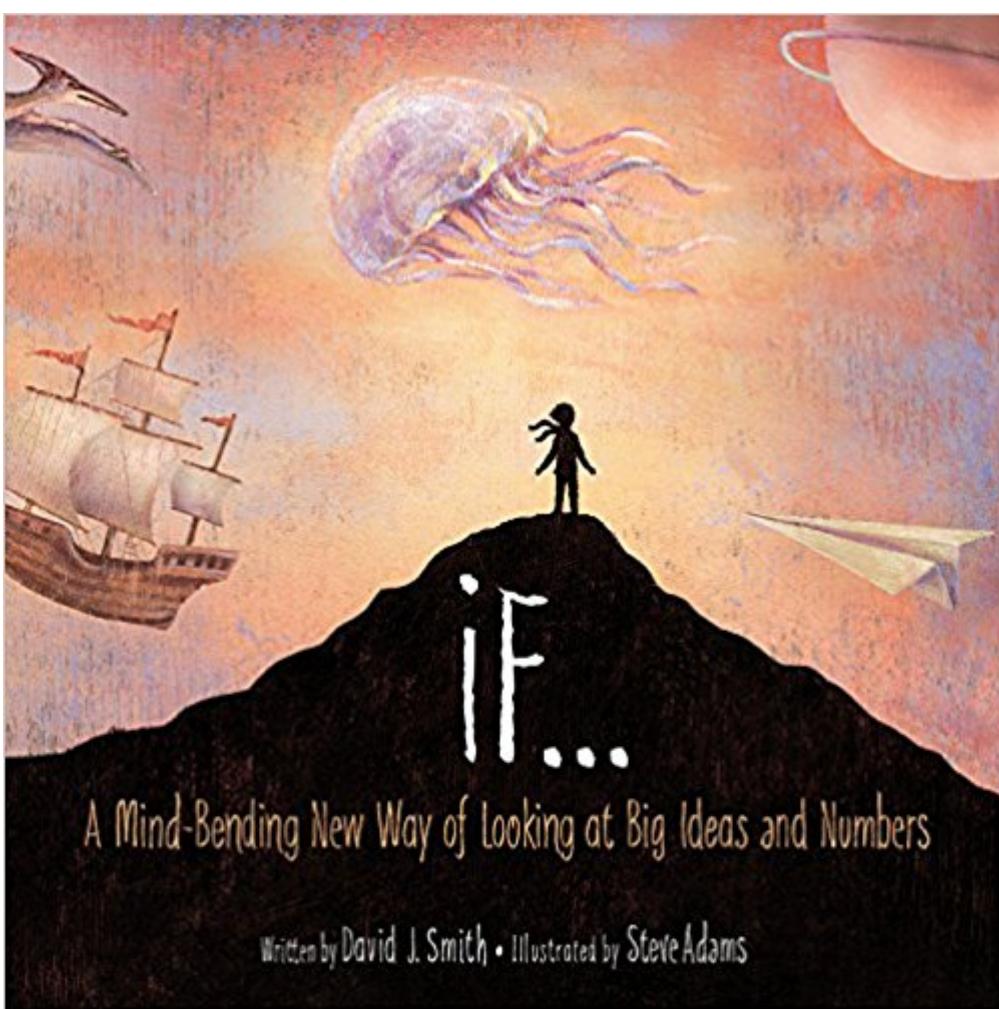


The book was found

# If: A Mind-Bending New Way Of Looking At Big Ideas And Numbers



## Synopsis

?Some things are so huge or so old that it's hard to wrap your mind around them. But what if we took these big, hard-to-imagine objects and events and compared them to things we can see, feel and touch? Instantly, we'd see our world in a whole new way.? So begins this endlessly intriguing guide to better understanding all those really big ideas and numbers children come across on a regular basis. Author David J. Smith has found clever devices to scale down everything from time lines (the history of Earth compressed into one year), to quantities (all the wealth in the world divided into one hundred coins), to size differences (the planets shown as different types of balls). Accompanying each description is a kid-friendly drawing by illustrator Steve Adams that visually reinforces the concept. By simply reducing everything to human scale, Smith has made the incomprehensible easier to grasp, and therefore more meaningful. The children who just love these kinds of fact-filled, knock-your-socks-off books will want to read this one from cover to cover. It will find the most use, however, as an excellent classroom reference that can be reached for again and again when studying scale and measurement in math, and also for any number of applications in social studies, science and language arts. For those who want to delve a little deeper, Smith has included six suggestions for classroom projects. There is also a full page of resource information at the back of the book.

## Customer Reviews

Gr 2â ª5â ªFollowing in the footsteps of his If America Were a Village (2009) and If the World Were a Village (2011, both Kids Can), Smith again scales down large concepts and numbers for young readers with a focus on worldly concepts. Topics ranging from our galaxy, solar system, world history, inventions, world population, and energy and food production are related to familiar everyday objects, so children can easily grasp the relationship between these big ideas. For instance: if all of Earth's water was represented by 100 drinking glasses, 97 glasses would be filled with salt water, while only three would be filled with fresh water. Only one of the three is accessible, as the remaining two would be found in glaciers, frozen in the atmosphere, or deep underground. Adams's beautiful illustrations, reminiscent of folk art, vividly portray the concepts but may occasionally lead to some confusion. When presenting world life expectancy as footprints in the sand, the illustration makes it seem as though North Americans live the longest at 78 years (with 78 footprints), but only when reading the side panel is it stated that residents of some countries would have 83 footprints. Furthermore, Smith's time lines are brief and may overlook events some find most relevant (for instance, he doesn't include the automobile on the time line of Inventions of the

Last 1000 Years). An author's note provides suggestions for additional scale activities, and a list of useful books and websites can be found as well. Overall, the text serves as an excellent discussion starter and bridge to comprehending big concepts. A solid suggestion for fact-focused young readers.â "Meaghan Darling, Plainsboro Public Library, NJ

" ... this is one of those books school-age children can happily page through many times, and even adults may find themselves taking a second and third whirl.â •The New York TimesThis would be a fun book to book-talk to children in grades two to six.â •Resource Links

[Download to continue reading...](#)

If: A Mind-Bending New Way of Looking at Big Ideas and Numbers A Woman Looking at Men  
Looking at Women: Essays on Art, Sex, and the Mind Bending the Future: Fifty Ideas for the Next  
Fifty Years of Historic Preservation in the United States Master Your Mind: Achieve Greatness by  
Powering Your Subconscious Mind [mental power, mind control, thought control] (brain power,  
subconscious mind power, NLP, Neuro Linguistic Programming) The Art of Drawing Optical Illusions:  
How to draw mind-bending illusions and three-dimensional trick art in graphite and colored pencil  
The Everything Kids' Word Search Puzzle and Activity Book: Solve clever clues and hunt for hidden  
words in 100 mind-bending puzzles Dark Matter: An Intelligent and Mind-bending Thriller Full of  
Twists and Turns Brainworks: The Mind-bending Science of How You See, What You Think, and  
Who You Are National Geographic Kids Quiz Whiz: 1,000 Super Fun, Mind-bending, Totally  
Awesome Trivia Questions National Geographic Kids Quiz Whiz 6: 1,000 Super Fun Mind-Bending  
Totally Awesome Trivia Questions National Geographic Kids Quiz Whiz 2: 1,000 Super Fun  
Mind-bending Totally Awesome Trivia Questions The Keeper's Secret (The Mind Bending Series)  
Driving Like Crazy: Thirty Years of Vehicular Hell-bending Celebrating America the Way Itâ™s  
Supposed to Beâ •With an Oil Well in Every Backyard, a ... of the Federal Reserve Mowing Our  
Lawn Wild Ones: A Sometimes Dismaying, Weirdly Reassuring Story About Looking at People  
Looking at Animals in America Native Cultures in Alaska: Looking Forward, Looking Back (Alaska  
Geographic) Looking Out, Looking In United Methodism at Forty: Looking Back, Looking Forward  
Cengage Advantage Books: Looking Out, Looking In Cengage Advantage Books: Looking Out,  
Looking In, 14th Edition Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

Privacy

FAQ & Help