

Looking for a way to engage with your learner more deeply through our videos? Use these guiding questions to dig a little deeper as you explore Field Museum collections and research at home!

# BEING BIG ON LAND



**Run time:** 2:43

**Suggested age level:** elementary grades, tweens and teens

**Essential question:** How do animals evolve to survive in their environments?

**Key vocabulary:**

**Sauropod** – a large four legged herbivore dinosaur

**Guiding questions:**

**Before watching the video:** Make a prediction about where the largest animals in the world live.

1. Make a list of the ten largest living animals that you can think of.
2. After you make your list, write a W next to animals that live in water, and L next to the animals that live on land.
3. Where did most of the animals live? Why do you think that is?

**After watching the video:**

1. How did your pre-viewing observations compare to the information in the video? Is there any new information you can add to your explanation about where most large animals live?
2. What are the survival advantages of being big? What are the disadvantages?
3. What other fictional animals can you think of that could never actually move around on land in real life because of their size?

**Take action:**

Feel the pressure of having a larger body supported by smaller “legs”:

Try walking on all 4 of your limbs:

1. First, walk with your hands and feet flat on the floor. How does it feel walking around?
2. Next, notice how it feels if your limbs are straight or if they are bent. Does one way feel harder than the other?
3. Now, keep walking on all four limbs and try walking on your tiptoes and finger tips. How does this feel?

As you saw in the video, elephants and sauropods need big flat feet to support their weight; mice and other small animals can have tiny feet to scamper quickly.