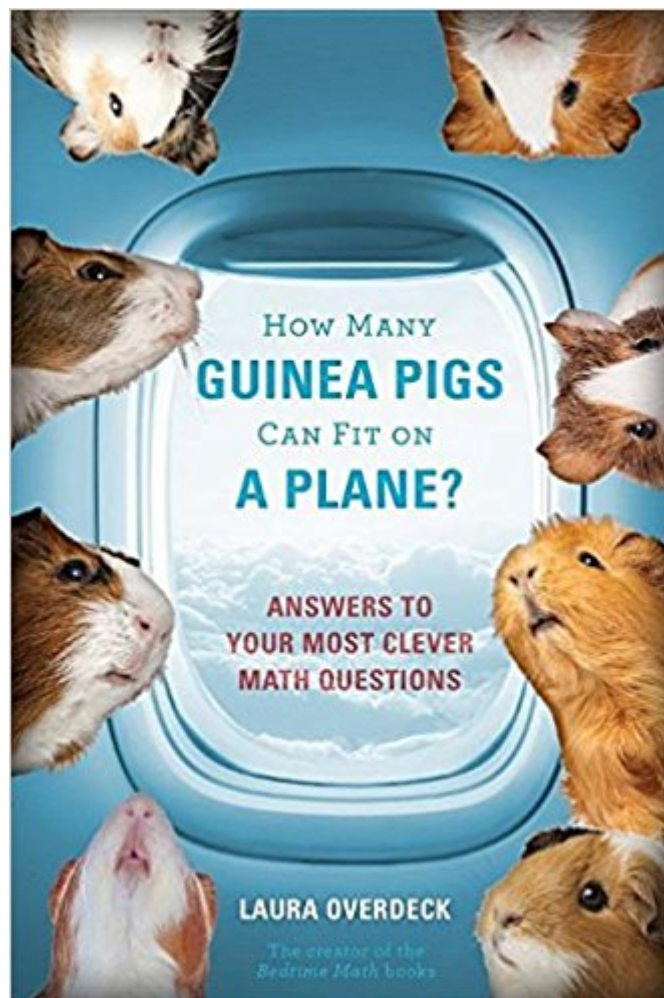




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# How Many Guinea Pigs Can Fit On A Plane?: Answers To Your Most Clever Math Questions (Bedtime Math)



## Synopsis

How many bees does it take to make one jar of honey? How many soccer balls would fit inside a hollow Earth? How many pieces of gum would it take to stick you to a wall—and keep you there? Believe it or not, you can find out the answers to these questions yourself—using math! Combining questions from real readers like you with surprising answers, Laura Overdeck's *How Many Guinea Pigs Can Fit on a Plane?* proves that numbers can be fun—and that math is power.

## Book Information

Series: Bedtime Math

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Feiwel & Friends (June 6, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250123682

ISBN-13: 978-1250123688

Product Dimensions: 6 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #104,245 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in [Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Games > Questions & Answers](#) #465 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Math](#)

Age Range: 7 - 11 years

Grade Level: 2 - 6

## Customer Reviews

“Overdeck debuts with a just-irreverent-enough book . . . She shows that she knows her audience and loves her subject. Paillot (the *My Weird School* series) is a great choice for collaborator . . . he does it all with a good-hearted, goofy energy that should propel readers through the pages. Publishers Weekly, starred review “[This program] may have the potential to make bedtime math problems as loved as the bedtime story. . . . Hats off to Laura Overdeck. This project is a winner. A simple idea that may have as much of an impact on improving the science, technology, engineering and math interest in our children as many other well-funded programs. Wired/GeekDad “We all know we should read to our kids. But even if bedtime stories are routine in your house, when’s the last time you gave your kids a bedtime

math problem? Probably never. And that's one reason American students might struggle in a future that requires mathematical literacy... Maybe if more children grew up doing bedtime math problems, those numbers would be different.

—• —â ¢USA Today—Â—“Besides stopping the bad-mouthing of our own math skills and making sure that we're distributing our numbers-related conversations equally among our sons and daughters, what can a parent do to increase "math awareness" in our everyday lives? How about a bedtime math problem? . . . [in Bedtime Math]They're meant to be solved in their heads, and to promote both giggles and mathematical thought.

—• —â ¢New York Times Motherlode Blog—Â—“The U.S. ranks 25th out of 34 countries when it comes to kids' math proficiency. One New Jersey parent wants to change that by overhauling the culture of math. An astrophysics graduate and mother of three kids, she started a ritual when each child was 2 years old: a little bedtime mathematical problem-solving that soon became a beloved routine. Parent friends began to bug her to send them kid-friendly math problems, too. Now Bedtime Math is gaining fans among children and math-shy parents around the country.

—• —â ¢NPR

Laura Overdeck is the author of *Bedtime Math: A Fun Excuse To Stay Up Late*, *Bedtime Math: This Time It's Personal*, and *Bedtime Math: The Truth Comes Out*. Laura knows a thing or two about numbers. As a kid, she sat and memorized perfect squares for fun, before it was cool. And as a mom, she (along with her husband, John) decided to give their three children math problems alongside bedtime stories, and soon Bedtime Math was born. It has since grown into a nationwide movement to make math cool and to get kids fired up about numbers, sparking Bedtime Math's new after-school math club, Crazy 8s. Laura holds a BA in astrophysics from Princeton University and an MBA from the Wharton School of Business. When not playing with numbers, Laura pursues her other interests, which include chocolate, wine, extreme gravity stunts, and LEGO Mindstorms.

I have a full collection of Laura's books. They are well written. I enjoy reading them with my grandchildren.

Laura Overdeck has done it again! She has a wonderful ability to make any subject relate to Math in the most enjoyable way for kids and adults too. My grandson and I have a nightly ritual. When he is ready for bed, we read a page from *Bedtime Math*. I love to watch him as he works through the problems and gets the correct answer and he gets such a sense of satisfaction when he arrives at the solution. This newest addition to the series has a somewhat different format but it is equally as

entertaining. We highly recommend this book to all young mathematicians.

We have been fans of bedtime math since our first child was little. This book is great for teaching math in a fun way and my daughter has been carrying it around the house for the last few days. I love that she asked her Father, "Did you know that a Tornado has stronger winds than a Hurricane?" Our family has never been so excited about a book!

Always been a fan of "Bedtime Math". This is book is a great read for the young and curious. Kudos to Laura Overdeck and her team for putting this book together.

Geez. How I ended up in this position IÃfÂçÃ â ¬Ã â„çll never know. Me. A born and bred liberal arts major. The kind of person who managed to go an entire four years in college avoiding any classes that had even the faintest whiff of math to them. I wasnÃfÂçÃ â ¬Ã â„çt one of those kids traumatized by it or anything. In many ways math was, for me, more of a non-starter. It didnÃfÂçÃ â ¬Ã â„çt figure into my worldview or daily life or really much of anything above and beyond the classes I was required to take to graduate. When I grew up I used some of it. Most of it? Not a jot. I became a childrenÃfÂçÃ â ¬Ã â„çs librarian and pretty much figured my time with math was over and done with. Fast forward to 2013 and suddenly IÃfÂçÃ â ¬Ã â„çm serving on a committee. Not just any committee either. A math committee (the Mathical Award). A committee dedicated towards getting good, fun, high-quality math books into the hands of kids. Hunhuna? Hubba wha? How did this happen? Who knows, but here I am and now I find that I not only like math books for kids, IÃfÂçÃ â ¬Ã â„çve a nose for sniffing out the ones that are actually interesting. Little wonder that I recently picked up Laura OverdeckÃfÂçÃ â ¬Ã â„çs latest math-related fare ÃfÂçÃ â ¬Ã Â“How Many Guinea Pigs Can Fit On a Plane?ÃfÂçÃ â ¬Ã Â• Picked it up, I say, and havenÃfÂçÃ â ¬Ã â„çt looked back since. Some of you are looking at the cover of this book and rolling your eyes heavenward. Not because you donÃfÂçÃ â ¬Ã â„çt like math, but because you figure youÃfÂçÃ â ¬Ã â„çve seen this kind of thing before. Something that declares that it makes math fun, huh? Lemme guess. You open it up and it has all the glitz and flair of your standard school textbook, with a dry as dirt text to match. Or, much worse, it tries too hard, filling its pages with a kind of forced gaiety, as if by acting excited it might transfer that feeling through the very fibers of the pages themselves. Those kinds of books come out every single year and they are, to put it plainly, intolerable. Well put aside your prejudices and give this book a second glance, my friends. In ÃfÂçÃ â ¬Ã Â“How Many Guinea Pigs Can Fit On a

Plane? *Overdeck* hands readers a wide variety of curious questions.

*Overdeck* asks, "How many pieces of gun can stick me to the wall and hold me there?" *Overdeck* asks, "When will I be a billion second old?" *Overdeck* asks, "If I were as strong as an ant, how much could I pick up?" *Overdeck* Her answers come complete with math, wittily presented, beautifully designed. At the end *Overdeck* provides *7 Slick Tricks to Amaze Your Friends* for a little mental math, as well as copious sources and backmatter. Math done right. In many ways, it appears that "Guinea Pigs" has borrowed a page or two out of National Geographic's playbook. I don't know if you're familiar with National Geographic's books for kids but through much hard work and clever use of white space, NG has established itself as the go-to place for quickie facts. Whether they're churning out joke books, early chapter series about animal rescues, or big hardcover beauties filled with lush full-color photos (this is National Geographic we're talking about, after all) there's something for everyone in those pages. And yet fascinatingly they've never even attempted books that discuss math. Not once, as far as I can determine. Into, what I can only describe as, a gaping void comes Laura Overdeck and her jam-packed guinea pigs. Like NG books there are abundant photographs to be seen here (though they're more of the stock photo variety). And almost more importantly than that, like NG a clever book designer (in this case one Raphael Geroni) took pains to make the insides as enticing as possible. As a result, at the beginning of each page is a nicely delineated question portion, surrounded by pertinent images. Consider now the case of Laura Overdeck. A rare bird, to say the least. Outfitted with a BA in astrophysics from Princeton University and an MBA from the Wharton School of Business, her resume would not normally allow you to peg her as some kind of children's book guru. And yet, even as I say this, the woman has pretty much cornered the market on children's books that seamlessly integrate math into the everyday lives of children. With her *"Bedtime Math"* series, for example, she has worked to give math a natural space in a child's brain. Math so casually created that a kid would never dream that you could go for years without coming up with such equations. In many ways *"Guinea Pigs"* feels like a natural output of the *"Bedtime Math"* series, with one important difference. Visually, the book is leaps and bounds better than the books that made Overdeck a hero to so many. Now I like the *"Bedtime Math"* books just fine, but even as I found the content intriguing I found the art and illustrations unmemorable.

That's part of what I like so much about this new book (series?). Not only do the questions confound in a right pleasing way, but the design of the pages make you want to keep turning them. But let's talk text for a moment here. I keep getting distracted by the images when what I should really be praising as well are the words that surround them. You can look as pretty as a picture all you want, but if your text is a snorefest don't expect kids to follow you to the wide and wonderful world of mathamania. Overdeck splits her book into six chapters, each with a different nonfiction theme. The last chapter, "Now Do It In Your Head!" ups the ante, daring the kid readers to take their math to the next level. As for the questions in each chapter, I was reminded of the XKCD book "What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions". This is essentially a younger, slightly less silly, book along the same lines. Some of the questions don't require much outside information, but most require Overdeck to provide some research. For example, to the question "How many raindrops does it take to fill a glass of water?" we have to be told that a raindrop is 2 mm across with a radius of 1 mm. Overdeck then works out its volume and goes from there. Since this isn't a textbook, Overdeck doesn't make the reader figure out the math themselves but it would be easy to adapt this to a home or school (or fun, darn it) curriculum, if needs be. And I should probably note that some of the questions really don't have much math to them at all. "Which wind blows faster, a tornado or a hurricane?" is answered by facts more than anything else. So there is a bit of filler here and there, that's for sure. It seems crazy to say, but I honestly feel that for all that we children's librarians like to believe that we're living in some kind of a golden age of children's literature (particularly when it comes to nonfiction) math books for kids lag horribly behind the times. Why is this? It's quite simple. To write a good math book you have to care about the material. And sad as it is to say, most writers aren't math enthusiasts, for all that they can string two words together. That sometimes leaves the mathematicians to try to fill in the gaps, but without a true literary bent to fall back on, their books can sometimes come across as dry and bland. This is why we need more folks like Laura Overdeck. The math is good and the writing charming. Neither one of those two factors is ever a given. When you can run across them together, though, grab on with both hands and don't let go. And when you give this book to an interested kid, don't expect them to let go either. For ages 9-12.

Our family has been a fan of the Bedtime Math App for years. The concept is that if you can read a story at bedtime, you can also read a story about math and do a few fun problems. I can't say enough about how much the concept has influenced my girls attitude about math. They actively ask for it before going to bed. True to expectations, Ms. Overdeck's recent book continues the fun of exploring the world through interesting questions that introduce children to critical thinking, logic, and of course, math concepts. Our daughters' questions are featured in both the book and the app. The excitement that comes with knowing other children are contributing and that they can also participate is just another cherry on top!

Wonderful fun book! It is full of fun facts! The kids are waiting for the next one! Warning, you will be hearing the fun facts over and over again!

I gave this as a gift and I do not know if she liked it or not

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