Whitten by Jogy Benun
Illustrated by Laura Watson



Pebbles' first stop was a scorching desert. He spotted a camel enjoying the sunshine. "Hello, Mr. Camel!" he said. "I'm looking for BIG numbers. What's the biggest number you know?"
"Hmm. That would be 27 MILLION. That's the temperature of the sun."


## Science Spot

The sun is 93 million miles ( 150 million kilometers) away from Earth. It would take a plane 20 years to fly that far!


DID YOU KNOW?
Not all deserts are hot. A desert is a place where very little rain falls. In fact, the world's largest desert is Antarcticathe coldest continent on Earth!

The sun's core is 27 million degrees Fahrenheit, or 15 million degrees Celsius.



Refreshed from his drink, Pebbles flew on to a tropical rainforest. An electric eel wriggled by. "Hello, Ms. Eel," Pebbles said. "What's the biggest number you know?"
"1 BILLION! That's how many volts of electricity are in a lightning bolt."

NIMBER NOIE
1 billion has nine zeros. It looks like this: $1,000,000,000$

Fun Fact
A standard American light bulb uses 120 volts of electricity. That means an electric eel could power 5 light bulbs!

The eel lit up. "I only need 600 volts to zap predators." Suddenly, lightning FLASHED and thunder BOOMED.
"Take cover, little butterfly!" warned the eel.
Pebbles scrambled under a leaf to wait out the storm.

Scienge Spot
Most thunderstorm clouds hold more than 4 billion cups ( 1 billion liters) of water Two of these clouds could provide every person on Earth with one cup of water!

When the rain stopped, Pebbles crawled out from under his leaf and fanned his wings. A tree frog leaped onto a nearby branch. "Hello, Mr. Frog!" Pebbles said. "What's the biggest number you know?"

## Fun Fact

A tree frog can jump 20 times the length of its body. That's like you leaping across a school gym in one hop.

The frog looked around and croaked, "3 TRILLION. That's how many trees are growing on Earth."

## NIMBER NOIE

1 trillion has 12 zeros. It looks like this: $1,000,000,000,000$

Trees live longer than anything else on Earth. The oldest living tree is a bristlecone pine in California. It's more than 4,800 years old!


Pebbles fluttered to the forest floor, where an army of ants marched by. "Hello, little ants! What's the biggest number you know?" Pebbles asked. Without stopping their work, the ants shouted, "20 QUADRILLION! That's how many ants live on Earth."
"Quick, run!" one of them cried.
DID YOU KNOW?


NLIMBER NOIE
1 quadrillion has 15 zeros. It looks like this: $1,000,000,000,000,000$

Most grown-ups haven't learned numbers as large as 1 quadrillion. Try asking an adult what a number
with 15 zeros is called!
"Hello, Ms. Crab!" Pebbles said. "What's the biggest number you know?"


## Pebbles started to thank the crab when a gust

## of wind sent him tumbling out to sea.

"Not agaaaain!" he wailed.

## Science Spot

Wind moving 74 miles ( 119 kilometers) per hour or faster is called a hurricane, typhoon, or cyclone-the name depends on where you live.


Fun Fact
The world's tallest sandcastle measured 69 feet (21 meters). Builders used more than 10 million pounds ( 5 million kilograms) of sand!


SPLASH! A dolphin sprang from the waves.
"Hello, Mr. Dolphin!" Pebbles said. "What's the biggest number you know?" "6 SEXTILLION!" the dolphin squeaked. "That's how many cups of water make up the world's oceans."


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## ScIence Spot

Dolphins are clever animals. They use their own language of clicks, whistles, and squeals to communicate underwater.

Just then, an eagle dove down and scooped up Pebbles.
"Aaah, don't eat me!" Pebbles cried. The eagle laughed.
"I'm trying to save you! A tsunami is coming."
A massive wave rose up, barely missing them.

DID YOU KNOW?
Tsunami waves are often caused by earthquakes. They can rise over 100 feet ( 30 meters) high, which is as tall as a ten-story

Fun Fact
Bald eagles can dive at 100 miles (160 kilometers) per hour, as fast as a speeding car.
"Ms. Eagle, you just saved my life," Pebbles said. "Thanks a sextillion! That's the biggest number I know. I wonder, what's the biggest number you know?" "1 SEPTILLION. That's how many stars are in the sky."

Pebbles and the eagle flew all night.
At sunrise, they landed on a snowy mountain.
While the eagle rested, Pebbles spied a frolicking dog.
"Hello, Mr. Dog! Tell me, what's the biggest number you know?"
"3 OCTILLION!" the dog barked, wagging his tail. "That's how many atoms make up my body!"


1 octillion has 27 zeros. It looks like this: $1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000$ Malamute dogs live in freezing climates. Their thick fur coat keeps them warm and dry. Some adult malamutes can withstand temperatures as low as -76 degrees Fahrenheit (-60 degrees Celsius). Brrr!
"So, dogs are made of atoms?" asked Pebbles
"Not just dogs-EVERYTHING is made of atoms," the dog replied. "Butterflies, clouds, even this mountain!"
Suddenly, the mountain rumbled. "Oh no!" the dog howled. Mounds of snow hurtled toward Pebbles and his new friend.

DID YOU KNOW? Avalanches are often caused by skiers, snowmobilers, and even animals disturbing the snow.
"Hey, boy! You're safe," the scientist said to the dog. "And you brought a friend!"
"Hello, Ms. Scientist!" Pebbles said. "You must be wise. Tell me, what's the biggest number you know?"
The scientist didn't speak butterfly, so she continued working. "Hey, David!" she said to her lab partner. "Did you know that 5 NONILLION

"Yes!" David said. "And did you know we need even bigger numbers to count things in space?"
"Oooh, space!" Pebbles said. "I bet that's where l'll find the biggest number!"

## SGience Spot

Bacteria live all around us, even in our bodies. Good bacteria help us break down the foods we eat, while bad bacteria can make us sick.


NUMBER NOIE
1 nonillion has 30 zeros. It looks like this: 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

## Fun Fact

Space has space for some huge numbers. More than 1,000 Earths could fit inside the planet Jupiter. Nearly 1,000 Jupiters could fit inside the sun. And billions of suns could fit inside some of the galaxy's largest stars! 37

Pebbles flew to a nearby observatory, where he saw another butterfly. "Hello!" Pebbles said. "What brings you here?"
"I was looking for the very biggest number," the butterfly replied.
"No way! Me too!" Pebbles said. "Did you find it?"
"Well, I found out about INFINITY!" she said.
"Infinity? Is that the biggest number?"
"No. Infinity means that numbers go on and on forever.
You just keep adding zeros!"
"You mean there is no biggest number?"
The butterfly flapped her wings. "That's right!"
"Wow, Ms. Butterfly. I cant believe it! I could have searched forever!"

"Look!" Pebbles said. A burst of meteors flashed across the night sky. The butterflies chanted in unison: "One, two, three . . . infinity!"

Fun Fact
There are numbers so large that you can't even count the zeros! A googol has 100 zeros, and a googolplex has a googol zeros. But even that is nowhere near infinity!

DID YOU KNOW?
Numbers like "zillion," "gajillion," and "katrillion" aren't real numbers-they are made up! That's why they don't appear in this book

## Science Spot

 a science experiment. They were monarchs and painted ladies-just like Pebbles and
## Ms. Butterfly!

Avalanche: large amounts of snow and ice (or dirt and rocks) that suddenly slide down a mountain Whoops! Did I start that?

Celsius and Fahrenheit: units to measure temperature Celsius and Fahrenheit? I measure temperature in hot and hotter!


Earthquake: a sudden, violent shaking of the ground resulting from volcanic action or movements within the earth's crust
It's easier to stay standing during an
earthquake when you have 10 legs!
Hurricane: a large and powerful storm with strong winds
I don't like hurricanes. They really ruffle my feathers!

## DIG DEEPER: NUMBERS

A thumbprint of wet sand contains around 1 thousand
grains.
A tennis ball made out of sand would contain around
1 million grains.
1,000,000,000,000
A large sandcastle contains around 1 billion grains.
A large classroom filled with sand would contain around
1 1,000,000,000,000 grillion grains.
$1,000,000,000,000,000$



ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Joey Benun has always thought BIG. His fascination with numbers began when he was five years old-the bigger, the better. Years later, a fortuitous conversation with his niece and nephews inspired him to write a book about BIG numbers for little kids. Thus, Pebbles and the Biggest Number was born! Years before Pebbles took flight, nine-year-old Joey wrote his first comic book series about a disgruntled ketchup packet who resents being discarded and turns into The Ketchup Monster.

Today, Joey works and lives in Brooklyn, New York, as an Amazon account manager for his family-owned apparel business, The Bentex Group. During his free time, he enjoys engaging in religious studies, listening to TED Talks, and playing tennis.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR
Growing up, Laura Watson loved to draw, paint, and craft. This led her to study art and illustration at York University and Sheridan College, respectively. Today, Laura creates lighthearted and whimsical illustrations for children's books, magazines, and various other platforms. Known for her work with bright, textured swatches of color, she uses a digitally compiled method that looks fresh and hand-painted. Laura lives and works in Toronto, Canada, with her husband, teenage daughter, and a big orange dog named Red.

## DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to my second-grade teacher, Mrs. Ziona Katzman.
She always encouraged us to write, whether it was letters to the city council, companies we admired, or our fellow classmates. But my favorite project was writing my first picture book. That book was about another curious character, Curious George. Fifteen years later, the excitement I felt then hasn't faded.
Thanks for inspiring me to become an author. I hope this book inspires every reader to think BIG and realize BIG things happen when you put your mind to it.


## -BIGGEST NUMBERÉ

## What's the BIGGEST number?

Pebbles the butterfly wants to know! He travels the world in search of the answer, asking every animal he meets.

Along the way, he must escape an earthquake, outrun an avalanche, and fly over a tsunami. Luckily, his new friends are there to lend him a hand ... or a paw.

Will Pebbles ever find the biggest number?
Flutter in and find out!

## 27 million

