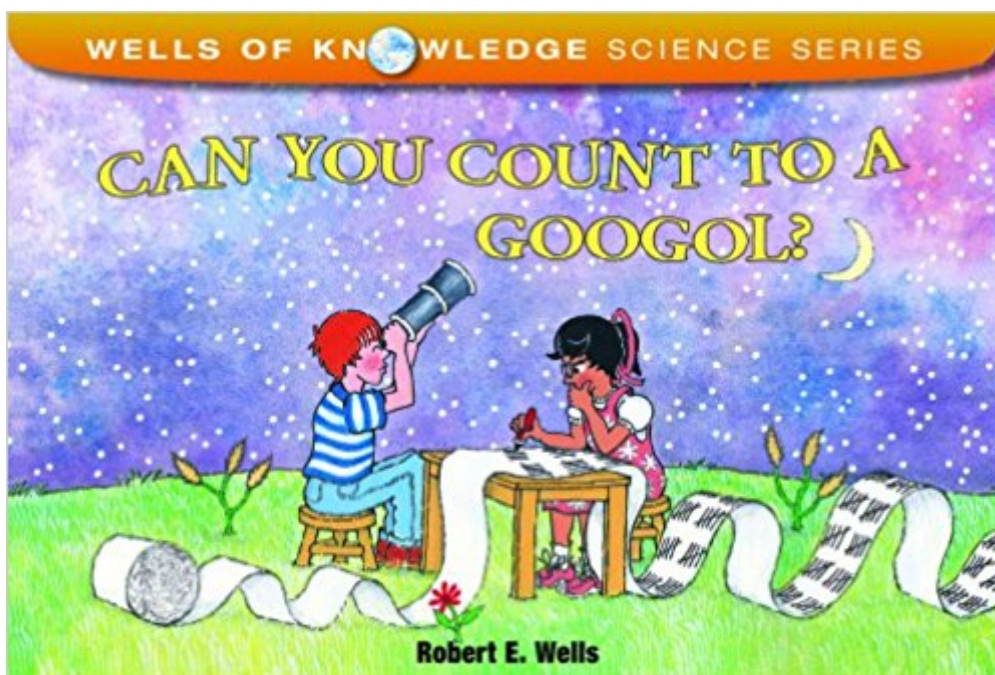


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# Can You Count To A Googol? (Wells Of Knowledge Science Series)



## Synopsis

You may be able to count all the way to one hundred, but have you ever counted to a googol? It's impossible! In this fun book of numbers, Robert E. Wells explores the wonderful world of zeros and tells how the googol came to be named.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770 (What's this?)

Series: Wells of Knowledge Science Series

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Company (January 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807510610

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Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.1 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #310,489 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in [Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Number Systems](#) #230 in [Books > Children's Books > Education &](#)

[Reference > Math > Arithmetic](#) #13324 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Grade 2-4-The author illustrates how our number system builds by powers of 10 and helps develop a concept of what those numbers mean. The initial illustrations are silly: a girl balances one banana on her nose; a monkey balances 10 bananas using limbs and tail; 100 eagles pull a basket of children through the sky. A more realistic sequence illustrates millions to billions. A large wooden crate is loaded with 1,000,000 dollar bills; 10 of these crates are loaded onto a flatbed trailer (10 x \$1,000,000 or \$10,000,000); 10 of the trailers are loaded onto a barge (\$100,000,000); and a harbor is filled with 10 barges (\$1,000,000,000). The author explains that a googol, the number with 100 zeros, is too big to illustrate. "If you counted every grain of sand on all the worlds' beaches, and every drop of water in all the oceans, that wouldn't even be CLOSE to a GOOGOL." Children are reminded that numbers go on forever by a rocket speeding off into space, accompanied by a trail of zeros. The switch from fanciful to factual in these examples is somewhat jarring, but the

pen-and-acrylic cartoons do adequately illustrate the growing numbers. Though David M. Schwartz's *How Much Is a Million?* (Lothrop, 1985), with its consistent playful tone and imaginative number illustrations, is still a preferable choice, Wells's model of building numbers could be a useful addition. Adele Greenlee, Bethel College, St. Paul, MN Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This counting book begins with 1 and moves up: 10, 100, 10,000, 100,000, and so on, building to the concept of a googol, the number represented by 1 followed by 100 zeros. Some math teachers will object to the notion of adding zeros after a number, which Wells sometimes does, instead of multiplying by 10 or 1,000. Still, the simple, colorful ink-and-acrylic illustrations of 1,000 scoops of ice cream, 100,000 marshmallows, and 1,000,000 dollars will help children visualize big numbers represented by familiar objects. Like Wells' previous books, such as *What's Smaller than a Pygmy Shrew?* (1995), this picture book encourages young children to stretch their minds a bit. The last page offers a short history of the googol, including its naming by a 9-year-old boy. Good supplementary material for the math curriculum. Carolyn Phelan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

One of my young children, upon learning about the number "googol" a while back, has adopted this as his favorite number. So, it was great to find a cute book that actually illustrates a bit what this means. (And it also does a nice job of introducing place value and a much lower level as well-- so it could be useful in a range of elementary math classes).

Great book (and series) that really puts science and math in perspective, illustrating in a way that can be understood by all ages.

My seven-year-old granddaughter loves this book. Her father had already introduced her to the concept of a googol and a googol-plex and she was so excited to see it referenced in a book. Actually, the adults enjoyed it as well... it explain a very hard-to-grasp concept in an entertaining way.

Wonderful book! I'm going to look for more by this author. My 4yo boy loves it. Definitely buy it! You won't be disappointed.

An excellent book for the math or number-lover! It's fun and teaches the concept of multiplying by 10 to the nth-degree.

A bit disappointed. The title sounds interesting but I thought the content could have been more interesting. Content is tight and busy and didn't like the font of the text. I've only read it once. My daughter who was 3 at the time was totally not interested in this book. Will try with her again later, though I don't like the book myself.

I read this book to my son and daughter when they were 6 and 4 years old. They were, at the time, obsessed with big numbers, like billions, trillions, and more. They were fascinated with the concept of the number One Google, and this book's fun and detailed visuals were the perfect "food" to feed their hunger for numbers. A must-read for exploring math with your curious children.

My 5 year old son is fascinated by this book! He loves science and nature, and really enjoys all of the Robert Wells books we have (I plan to order the rest asap). The thing I appreciate most about this book is that my son doesn't even realize he's learning, and walks around talking about billions and trillions and googols in a far more sophisticated manner than I ever did as a 5 year old. Wells doesn't dumb things down and, like the original Magic School Bus series, crams a whole lot of factual information into an entertaining children's book. Terrific read for your child!

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