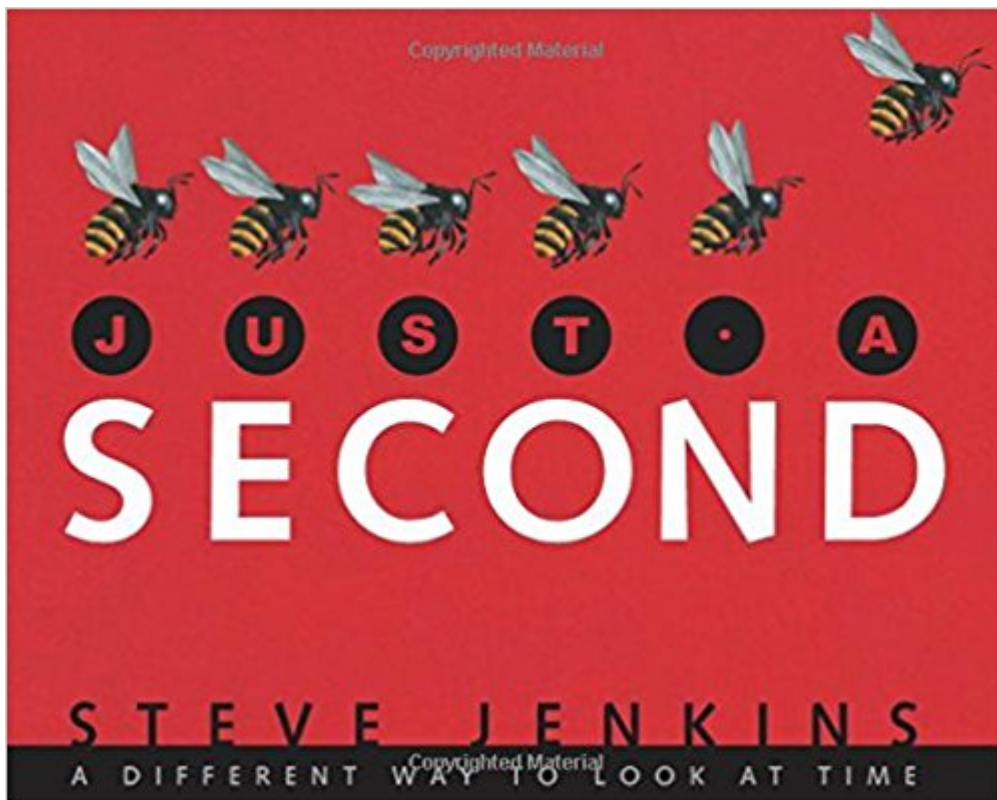


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# Just A Second



## Synopsis

What can happen in just a second, a minute, or an hour? How can we measure time? The flap of a vulture's wing. A crocodile's heartbeat. The weight of a baby blue whale. The life of a mayfly. These increments of time may sound a bit strange, but they are all fascinating ways in which we can think about time. But what exactly is time? In *Just a Second*, the award-winning author-illustrator Steve Jenkins brings forth unique ways to think about time beyond the hands we see every day on a ticking clock. This non-fiction picture book explores time and how we think about it in a different way - as a series of events in the natural world (some of them directly observable, others not) that take place in a given unit of time. Steve Jenkins' extraordinary illustrations will accompany this engaging look at time.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 870L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (October 25, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618708960

ISBN-13: 978-0618708963

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #359,846 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts > Time #507 in Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts > Counting #4986 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

"This subtly philosophical examination of time, scale, and the mechanics of life is all but certain to leave readers reconsidering the world and their place in it." • Publishers Weekly, starred review "This is a fascinatingly different way to approach natural history as well as time..." • Bulletin "Jenkins renders this package both eye-catching and mind boggling. Teachers will find good jumping-off points here for math, science, and history discussions." • School Library Journal,

starred review

Steve Jenkins has written and illustrated over twenty picture books for young readers, including the Caldecott Honor-winning *What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?* His books have been called stunning, eyepopping, inventive, gorgeous, masterful, extraordinary, playful, irresistible, compelling, engaging, accessible, glorious, and informative. He lives in Colorado with his wife and frequent collaborator, Robin Page, and their children. To learn more about Steve and his books, visit [www.stevejenkinsbooks.com](http://www.stevejenkinsbooks.com).

Not since Hazel Hutchins and Kady MacDonald Denton's *A Second Is a Hiccup* has somebody made such a beautiful book about time. Only, where Hutchins and Denton used analogies from the world of humans, Jenkins not unexpectedly uses the world of animals. So what can animals do in one second? "A vulture in flight flaps its wings once. A pygmy shrew's heart beats 14 times. A bat makes 200 high-pitched calls. A rattlesnake shakes its tail in warning 60 times. A hummingbird beats its wings 50 times. A bumblebee beats its wings 200 times. A midge, a kind of gnat, beats its wings 1,000 times. A woodpecker hammers a tree with its beak 20 times." And that's just the first page! Using his signature bright backdrops and collage animals, Jenkins gives us more "one second" examples before going on to talk about what animals--and plants and planets--do in one minute, one hour, one day, one week, one month, and one year. He throws in an extra spread called "Very Quick" for things that happen in even less than a second. I once looked all over the place for information about the speed at which a frog zaps and swallows an insect (and had trouble finding that fact); here Jenkins tells us that the Shasta salamander "can snap up an insect in 1/100 of a second." The author/illustrator also gives us "Very Long," including "an ocean quahog, a clam, [that] lived to be 405 years old...." and he throws in a history of the universe (on one page!), Earth's human population growth from 1750 to a projected 2050, plus an extra chart about plant and animal life spans. Pretty stuff, and pretty fascinating!

*Just a Second* was interesting as it put seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years into comparison to events taking place in the world around the reader. Some of the concepts were a little larger than a young child can relate to, however overall the comparisons of time and things taking place were realistic and informative. A fun read for an adult to share with children!

imaginative, eyemagulative Steve Jenkins has done it again, this time scoring a first on seconds.my

youngest grandchild loves this book.

This is another winner by author Steve Jenkins. Children and adults will be fascinated by the amount of time (little or long) for natural occurring phenomena around them. Jenkins does not dumb down his explanations, but uses language that engages and astounds the reader.

Steve Jenkins is a favorite author/illustrator for our family. His information is scientifically detailed and accurate, accompanied by beautiful and interesting images. This is another winner for us!

After purchasing two, one for each household of grandchildren, was so delighted with this creative way of thinking about time, I purchased one of my own.

Good book that states facts in time - one second, one minute, one day, one month.

Ordered this book as a gift for my grandson. It exceeded my expectations, it was in excellent condition. Great book for early childhood.

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