

## English

## Atlas Obscura

### World Records of Casey, Illinois

The world's largest collection of the world's largest objects is in one small Illinois town.



The otherwise unassuming town of Casey, Illinois is home to an outsized number of the world's largest things. The odd collection of giant objects includes a giant golf tee, wind chime, knitting needles and crochet hook, mailbox, birdcage, and rocking chair—all located downtown.

With chimes suspended 49 feet above the ground, the massive wind chime stands 55 feet tall and is a sight to behold (located at 109 E Main St). The longest of five chimes is 42 feet long—nearly double that of the previous world record holder. The chimes sing gentle and deep as they strike the clapper.

On display across from the huge wind chime (at 100-198 E Main St) is the world's largest rocking chair. This new chair, which was topped off on August 25, 2015, is 56 feet, 6 inches tall, and weighs 46,200 pounds. It beats the previous largest chair (42 feet, 1 inch tall) in Fanning, Missouri, which held the record for over seven years.

A supremely impressive construction effort, a massive mailbox (1-79 W Main St) features a door that opens and closes by means of a cable winch. It's across the street from a giant birdcage in which you can actually swing on the perch.

The world's largest golf tee was placed behind the clubhouse at the Casey Country Club (203 NE 13th St) in 2013. The golf tee measures more than 30 feet from the ground to the top, with a head diameter of 6.26 feet and a shaft diameter of 2.1 feet, and is constructed with yellow pine boards held together by 60 gallons of glue and 120 pounds of screws. The total structure weighs 6,659 pounds.

Things just keep getting bigger and bigger in Casey as the latest installment is a large pitchfork at Richard's Farm Restaurant (607 NE 13th St). At 60 feet long and weighing 1,940 pounds, this creation is be one of the new items in Casey vying for the Guinness World Record.

Source: [World Records of Casey, Illinois - Atlas Obscura](#)

### **Comprehension questions:**

1. What makes the town of Casey, Illinois unique, and how is this reflected in its downtown area?

*Casey is unique because it is home to an unusual collection of giant objects, such as a golf tee, wind chime, knitting needles, mailbox, birdcage, and rocking chair, all located downtown.*

2. How does the world's largest wind chime in Casey compare to the previous record holder, and what are its key features?

*The Casey wind chime stands 55 feet tall, with the longest chime measuring 42 feet—nearly twice the size of the previous record holder. It produces deep, gentle sounds as the chimes strike the clapper.*

3. What are the dimensions and features of the world's largest rocking chair, and where is it located in Casey?

*The rocking chair is 56 feet, 6 inches tall, weighs 46,200 pounds, and surpasses the previous record set in Fanning, Missouri. It is located across from the giant wind chime on East Main Street.*

4. What materials and construction techniques were used to create the world's largest golf tee, and where can it be found?

*The golf tee, located at Casey Country Club, is made of yellow pine boards, uses 60 gallons of glue, 120 pounds of screws, and weighs 6,659 pounds. It stands over 30 feet tall, with a head diameter of 6.26 feet and a shaft diameter of 2.1 feet.*

### **Talking point:**

1. The Appeal of Unusual Attractions

*Discuss how unique landmarks like the giant objects in Casey can attract tourists to small towns. Why might people be interested in visiting such places?  
Engineering and Creativity Behind Giant Objects*

2. Explore the challenges and creativity involved in constructing objects like the world's largest golf tee or wind chime. What do these creations say about the town's identity?

*Guinness World Records and Community Pride*

3. Examine the role of Guinness World Records in fostering local pride and community spirit. How might having record-breaking objects impact Casey's reputation?

*Cultural and Economic Impact of Tourism*

4. Consider how tourism driven by quirky attractions like those in Casey can influence the local economy and culture.

*Are there downsides to relying on such tourism?*

**Watch this short video and see how many giant items you can remember afterwards.**

<https://www.tiktok.com/@shotandforgot/video/7294364743043665195>

WORLD'S LARGEST . . .	
1.	WIND CHIMES
2.	
3.	
4.	

**12 largest items:** a rocking chair, wind chimes, a working teeter totter, a barber pole, a gavel, a golf driver, a golf tee, a key, a mailbox, a pitchfork, a swizzle spoon (or twizzle spoon) and a wooden shoe

**Giant things:** a pencil, a taco, an ear of corn, a birdcage, antlers, an anvil, a book worm, a cactus, a crochet hook, knitting needles, a horseshoe, a minion, a piggy bank, a pizza slicer, a pokeball, a rocking horse, a softball bat, a spinning top and a yard stick

**Check out the website 'Big Things in a Small Town - Casey, Illinois'.**

**[Big Things Small Town | Casey, Illinois | 12 World's Largest](#)**

1. Watch the video and summarise: <https://youtu.be/nK4SRBpTXOU>
2. Choose one of the World's largest items you can find in Casey and create a short presentation about it. Please explain why you chose that particular giant item.

**Additional task**

There are 'iconic big things' in Australia. Check out this website, pick one of the 31 big things and create a presentation for the class. Do you like these kind of statues? If you travel to Australia would you make an extra trip to see them in real life?

**[A Guide To 31 Of Australia's Iconic Big Things - Australian Traveller](#)**

- Name of the giant statue
- Where is it situated?
- How tall is it?
- Reason why it was built
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