

Big Trunks

Tiny Tales

ifaw



For Animal Lovers Aged 5-7

Instructions

Print out or display the stories on a device for use in small groups. Read the stories along with your learners. If they are non-readers, read the stories aloud. You may want to have emergent readers read text on the bold-faced lines on the pages; then you read aloud the rest of the text. Print out the activity masters that accompany each article and distribute them to learners as you teach each article—which you may wish to do over a series of days.

Cover: "Big Trunks, Tiny Tales"

Have a discussion about the cover. Ask what animal learners see. Read the cover headline to the learners. Ask what they think "Big Trunks, Tiny Tales" means. Ask them to tell you from looking at the cover and thinking about the headline what the magazine will be about. What do they think they will learn about?

Lesson 1: The Big Picture

Explain that elephants are the largest land animals in the world, and that everything about them is big, including their ears, trunks, tusks and feet. (The tusks can be as long as 10 feet. An elephant's foot is three feet around.) These features help them survive in the wild. What makes elephants even more special is that they are among the smartest animals.

Before Reading

Begin a discussion by asking learners to name some large types of animals. Have they ever seen an elephant in real life? Where? What do they know about elephants? What questions do they have about elephants?

Read for Information

- Younger learners: How does an elephant take a shower? (Sucks up water in its trunk and sprays itself)
- Older learners: How many pounds of food does an elephant eat in a day? (400 pounds) What must it be like to have to find 400 pounds of plant food every day?

Start a Discussion

What are some parts of the elephant that are very big? (Trunk, tusks)

What part of their body is like a trunk? (Learners point to nose—and upper lip) Would they like to have a trunk? How does an elephant use its trunk? (To eat, drink, cool off)

What part of a student's body is like a tusk? (Learners might

point to teeth, or specifically the two front teeth.) What do tusks do? (Lift things like tree trunks, dig for food and water)

Key Vocabulary

tusks: the long front teeth of an elephant.

trunk: the long nose and upper lip of an elephant.

Activity

Print copies of the activity master "Big Appetites", and give one to each student. Students answer questions about what elephants eat and then color the picture. (Read the questions aloud and elicit oral answers from non-readers and early readers.)

Activity answers: 1. a; 2. b; 3. a; 4. b; 5. a

Lesson 2: Elephant Families

This story explains that elephants form an extended family, called a herd. Unlike many other mammal species, such as lions or baboons, the leader of an elephant family is female. Called a matriarch, the herd leader is the biggest, oldest female. As with most animal species, the females take care of their young. But elephants will also take care of offspring not their own. The strong feelings of elephants for their young are similar to those of humans.

Before Reading

Encourage students to share what they know about families. Ask: Do they think animals have families? What might an animal family be made up of?

Read for Information

- Younger learners: Do adult males live in an elephant family? (No) Who leads a family: a male or a female? (Female)
- Older learners: For how long does a baby elephant drink its mother's milk? (Two years) How tall is a baby elephant when it's born? (About three feet) How heavy is it? (About 250 pounds)

Start a Discussion

- Younger learners: Do adult elephants care for their families? Do learners think baby elephants have a happy life? Why or why not?
- Older learners: In what ways are elephant families similar to human families? (Adults care for and protect their young. Babies need the attention of adults. Young elephants like to play with each other. They learn from adults.) In what ways are they different? (Male elephants

always leave the family at a certain age. There are never adult males in an elephant family.)

Key Vocabulary

herd: a family of related elephants, made up of female adults and their offspring

calf: a baby elephant

matriarch: the female leader of a herd. She is the biggest and oldest mother.

Activity

Print the activity master "The Elephant Family", and distribute to each learner. Learners match each word to its explanation and can then color the picture.

Activity answers: **matriarch:** the oldest mother and leader of the herd; **herds:** family groups; **females:** stay in their herds for life; **males:** leave the herd between the ages of 5 and 12; **calves:** baby elephants

Lesson 3: A Rescue for Dev

This is a true story about a baby Asian elephant who was rescued in India after falling into a hole and losing his mother. Thanks to the IFAW wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center in India, Dev and other orphaned and injured baby elephants are cared for until they are able to survive on their own and can return to life in the wild.

Before Reading

- Ask if anyone ever accidentally became separated from a parent. What did it feel like to be lost?

Read for Information

- Younger learners: What did the doctors do to help Dev? (They gave him medicine and washed him) What did the keepers feed Dev? (Milk)
- Older learners: Who did Dev play with at the Center? (Other calves) What food did Dev eat on his own? (Grass)

Start a Discussion

- Younger learners: What might have happened to Dev if there were no people around? Do students think Dev was happy at the center?
- Older learners: Why are the keepers happy at the end? Why are they sad? Why might it be difficult for Dev to return to the wild?

Key Vocabulary

keeper: a person who takes care of a wild animal orphaned: having lost a parent or parents

trumpeting: the loud sound an elephant makes with its trunk.

Activities

Print copies of "Baby Elephant" for coloring and to fill in the sentences at the bottom.

Print copies of "Elephant Story" for each learner to create a story or poem.

Lesson 4: Big Animals, Small Differences

This page compares elephants in Africa and elephants in Asia.

Most elephants in Africa are slightly bigger and because they generally live in a hotter climate than the Asian elephants, African elephants have more features that help keep them cool: bigger ears that give off more heat, and very wrinkled skin to retain water in the folds for cooling.

Before Reading

Ask all learners: Do they think all elephants look the same? Where do they think elephants live?

Read for Information

Which is usually heavier: an Asian elephant or an African elephant? (African). Which type of elephant has a round head? (Asian) Which type of elephant has longer tusks? (African)

Start a Discussion

Ask learners why they think the two types of elephants look different. (Each is suited to its habitat.)

Have learners sum up what they've learned by asking them why they think elephants are special animals. Ask them if they think it's important that we protect them, and why.

Activities

Print copies of "Spot the Difference" and "Comprehension", for each learner.

Activity answers:

Spot the Difference: *African elephants have larger tusks; they are taller and heavier, and have bigger ears and more toes.*

Comprehension: 1. African, Asian, 2. plant, 3. herds, 4. matriarch, 5. oldest

5: Just for Fun!

Print copies of "Jumbo Jumble". Learners will need scissors and tape to complete this activity.

Print copies of "Quick on the Draw". It shows learners how to draw a picture of an elephant.

Print copies of "Elephant Face". Learners will need a paper plate, glue, scissors and color pencils or markers to complete this activity.

