



Live Oak Media
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Activity Guide

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Elephants of Africa

This Live Oak Readalong can be correlated to the following Common Core State Standards (CCSS):

RI.2.10: By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 2–3 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

SL.2.2: Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

RI.3.10: By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 2–3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

SL.3.2: Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

The accompanying activities can be correlated to the following Common Core State Standards:

RI.2.1: Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

RI.2.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 2 topic or subject area.

W.2.6: With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.

W.2.7: Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., read a number of books on a single topic to produce a report; record science observations).

W.2.8: Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

SL.2.2: Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

SL.2.4: Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking audibly in coherent sentences.

RI.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

RI.3.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

RI.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

RI.3.5: Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.

RF.3.3.c: Decode multisyllable words.

W.3.4: With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.

W.3.6: With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

W.3.7: Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

SL.3.2: Identify the main ideas and supporting details of written texts read aloud or information presented graphically, orally, visually, or multimodally.

SL.3.4: Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

BEFORE LISTENING

About the Story

African elephants are amazing animals, and *Elephants of Africa* tells you everything you could ever want to know about how big these gigantic pachyderms can grow, where they live, what they eat, and how they behave.

Activate Prior Knowledge/Build Background

Ask children if they have ever seen an elephant in a zoo. Have them describe the characteristics of the elephants they've seen, and list their responses on the board. Then explain that the book they will read and listen to will give them lots of fascinating new facts about elephants.

AFTER LISTENING

Standards-Linked Activities

Listening/Speaking

CCSS: RI.2.1, SL.2.2; RI.3.1, RI.3.2, SL.3.2

As children listen to the book, have them draw a picture of an elephant based on the information they hear, or point to the parts of the elephant in the pictures as they are described. Then ask children the following questions about the book. Call on volunteers to respond orally.

1. In what kind of habitats do elephants live?
2. What is special about an elephant's trunk?
3. Which elephants live in an elephant family group?
4. In what ways are elephants and humans similar?" (Compare and contrast)
5. What is the most interesting act you learned about elephants? (Make judgments)

Vocabulary

CCSS: RI.2.4; RI.3.4, RF.3.3.c

Write these specialized words about elephants on the board. Discuss with children the meaning of each word and how it applies in particular to elephants. Then ask children to work in pairs to write a sentence about elephants using each of the words.

tusks herd savannah matriarch bull calf

Science: African vs. Asian Elephants

CCSS: W.2.7, W.2.8; W.3.7

Explain to children that there are two main kinds of elephants in the world, African elephants and Asian elephants. Have them work in groups to find information comparing and contrasting the two kinds of elephants. Children can create Venn diagrams showing the differences and similarities of the two elephant types. Display the diagrams in the classroom.

Social Studies: Elephants in History

CCSS: W.2.7, W.2.8, SL.2.2; W.3.7, W.3.8, SL.3.4

Tell children that in the past, and even today, elephants have been used to lift, move, and carry and for other jobs as well. Have children work with partners to learn about one of the jobs that elephants have done. Encourage them to take notes on the information they find and to present the information in an oral report to the class.

Art: Elephant Poster

CCSS: W.2.6; W.3.4, W.3.6

Elephants are endangered animals, and children can make posters encouraging people to support saving these giant mammals. Have them work with partners to illustrate and write a poster that supports saving elephants. If possible, pairs can use a computer art program for their posters. When posters are finished, hang them in the classroom or around the school.

Science: Mastodons and Mammoths

CCSS: W.2.7, W.2.8, SL.2.2; W.3.7, W.3.8, SL.3.4

Elephants are related to the extinct mastodon and mammoth, and children can research one of these ancient animals for a report. Have them work in small groups to find out how and where the elephant's relative lived and what caused its extinction. Groups can present their reports orally to the class when they are finished.

On the Internet: At Home with Elephants

CCSS: SL.2.4; RI.3.5, SL.3.4

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable. Have children use the keywords *elephant cam* to locate a real-time video camera showing elephants at a zoo or sanctuary. In groups, children can get to know the elephants over time and can report to classmates on where the elephants live and how they behave.