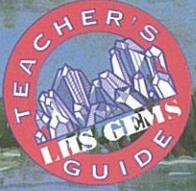




# ELEPHANTS AND THEIR YOUNG

Science and Math Activities for Young Children





# Activity 1: Elephants Up Close

## Session 1: An Elephant's Nose

### What You Need

#### For the group

- African Elephant poster (see page 15 and fold-out)
- Elephant's Face poster (see page 16)

#### For each child and yourself

- Knee high adult sock, preferably brown or gray

## Session 2: All About Ears

### What You Need

#### For the group

- African Elephant Poster (see page 15 and fold-out)
- Adult scissors
- Stapler
- Large blue cloth, such as a blanket or sheet
- Toy crocodile (at least one foot long), or you can cut one out of paper
- Pictures of elephants that clearly show their ears

#### For each child and yourself

- 2 sheets of brown or gray paper (9" x 12")
- 18' long piece of brown or gray paper, or nylon stocking
- Scissors
- Marker

#### Optional

Elephant ear pattern

## Session 3: Tusks—Giant-Size Teeth

### What You Need

#### For the group

- Elephant's Mouth poster (see page 17)
- Elephant's Face poster (see page 16)
- Small tree branch with bark that peels easily
- 2 popsicle sticks
- 2 pieces of white mural paper (8' x 1' and 5' x 1')
- 2 large tissue boxes (at least 9" x 4" x 3")

#### Optional

Mylar mirrors

#### For each child in K or Grade 1

- 1 cracker (or another food item to grind with molars)

## *Session 4: Making Elephant Puppets*

### **For the group**

- African Elephant poster (see page 15 and fold-out)
- Elephant's Face poster (see page 16)
- Utility knife or adult scissors
- Tray
- Enough newspaper to cover the work tables

### *Optional*

- Elephant Ear pattern (see page 18)
- Elephant Tusk pattern (see page 20)

### **For each child and yourself**

- Paper plate, 9" in diameter
- Trunk Hole pattern (see page 21)
- Scissors
- 2 pieces of brown or gray construction paper (9" x 12")
- Sheet of white paper (4" x 6")
- Black crayon or marker
- Brown or gray crayon or marker
- Container of glue

### *Optional*

Knee high adult sock, preferably brown or gray

## *Session 5: What Elephants Eat*

### **What You Need**

#### **For the Group**

- Examples of foods (real or plastic) elephants would eat. If possible, have the number of foods equal the number of children in your class. Suggestions of foods—grasses, leaves, several different fruits and vegetables, small branches and twigs, bark, nuts
- 1 large grocery bag

#### **For Each Child**

- 1 paper lunch bag
- 5–10 assorted elephant snacks such as a carrot stick, grape, celery stick, cracker
- Paper plate elephant puppets made in Activity 1, Session 4

## Activity 2

### *Session 1: Growing Up*

#### What You Need

##### For the group

- Mother Elephant and Her Baby poster (see page 38 and fold-out)

##### For each child

###### *Optional*

- Paper elephant ears made in Activity 1, Session 2

### *Session 2: Comparing Yourself to a Calf*

#### What You Need

##### For the group

- Baby Elephant poster (see page 39 and fold-out)
- Overhead projector
- Transparency of a baby elephant

##### For each child

- String (a piece five feet long)
- Masking tape
- Scissors
- Paper or journals
- Pencil or pen

*String works best for measuring activities as it holds its length. Yarn tends to stretch.*

### *Session 3: Measuring Feet*

#### What You Need

##### For the group

- Mother Elephant's Footprint poster (see fold-out)
- Young Adult Elephant's Footprint poster (see page 40)
- Baby Elephant's Footprint poster (see page 41)
- Enough uniform round objects with a diameter of approximately one inch (such as plastic disks, pennies, counters, or bottle caps) to fill the inside area of one elephant footprint as a group. Larger objects, such as poker chips or round crackers, may be better for younger children.

##### For each pair of children

- Footprint poster (which one depends on the grade level of your students, see Getting Ready below).
- Small container
- 30 round uniform objects (same objects as above)

##### For each child and yourself

- Sheet of paper large enough to trace a student's foot
- Pencil



## *Session 4: Measuring Weight*

### **What You Need**

#### **For the group learning center**

- 2 balances
- 2 containers
- 50 wooden—not plastic—cubes ( $\frac{3}{4}$  inch)
- Common classroom objects to weigh, such as pencils, markers, pattern blocks, wooden blocks, plastic cubes, erasers
- Post-Its
- Pen
- Standard scale that weighs in pounds
- Sack of potatoes
- Sack or box of rice
- Additional items to weigh on a standard scale

#### *Optional*

25 objects that weigh 10 pounds each

#### *Kindergarten and First Grade Only*

- Recording sheet for the comparative weights of the objects weighed or student journals to record results

### **Activity 3**

## *Session 1: Wonderful Water*

### **What You Need**

- Black and white Elephants and Water poster (see page 55)
- A large blanket or sheet, preferably blue

## *Session 2: More About Elephants and Water*

### **Center 1: Squirting Water with Droppers**

#### **What You Need**

##### **For each pair of two children**

- 2 plastic droppers (such as eye or medicine droppers)
- 10–20 assorted small cups and containers, such as water and soda bottle tops, shampoo bottle caps, baby food jar lids
- Small plastic container filled with water, such as a yogurt container
- 2 trays

## Center 2: Digging For Water

### What You Need

For each pair of two children

- 4 popsicle sticks, tongue depressors, or chopsticks
- Dishtub
- Enough sand to fill the dishtub about two-thirds full
- 2 droppers
- Small cup or bowl

## Session 3: Mud Baths

### What You Need

For the group

- Sunscreen

For each pair of two children

- Large tub of soil that makes good mud (do not use potting soil because it separates in water)
- 2 spoons
- 2 small empty bowls or containers, such as cottage cheese containers
- Several trays for drying mud-covered objects
- Enough newspaper to cover trays
- Variety of washable, objects that can be covered with mud, such as plastic animals, plastic blocks, small rubber balls. The objects must be small enough to fit into the empty bowls.
- Tub of soapy water for washing hands
- Drying towels

*Optional*

Several toy plastic elephants

## Session 4: Fill It Up!

*For Kindergarten and First Grade ONLY!*

### What You Need

For the group

- Clear, plastic bottles, jars, and containers of various sizes and shapes
- 1 gallon container, such as a milk or juice bottle
- Plastic scoops and measuring tools of various sizes and shapes
- Funnels
- Water
- Food coloring (one color, not yellow)
- Paper
- Pencils
- Masking tape
- 2 trays
- Cloth or paper towels

# *Activity 4: Magnificent Elephants*

## *Session 1: Elephant Communication*

### **What You Need**

#### *Optional*

#### **For each child and yourself**

- Knee high adult sock, preferably brown or gray
- Elephant ears made in Activity 1, Session 2

## *Session 2: Comparing Elephants*

### **What You Need**

#### **For the group**

- African Elephant poster (see page 15 and fold-out)
- Asian Elephant poster (see page 63 and fold-out)
- Asian Elephant/African Elephant poster (see page 64)
- Elephant Comparison Cards data sheet (see page 65)

## *Session 3: Protecting Elephants*

### **What You Need**

#### **For the Group**

- African Elephant poster (see page 15) or a toy elephant with tusks
- Paper tusk from Activity 1, Session 3
- Jewelry and/or small artifacts made from plastic, wood, glass, clay, or other materials such as a white chess piece, beaded necklace, or wood carving
- A book about elephants living in a national park such as *Little Bull: Growing Up in Africa's Elephant Kingdom* (see page 82)

#### **For Each Child**

- Various craft materials for children to make simple jewelry and figures

## *Session 4: Making a Class Book*

### **What You Need**

#### **For the group**

- Paper, drawing, and writing materials

#### **For each child**

- Asian Elephant/African Elephant poster