

## Great Big Elephants

**Topic:** Elephants

**Curriculum link:** Science

**Text type:** Report

**Reading level:** 23

**Word count:** 438

**Vocabulary:** African, appetites, communicate, dung, elephants, enormous, great, huge, Indian, kilograms, kilos, loudspeaker, muscles, predators, strong, trunks, tusks, weigh

**Possible literacy focus**

Exploring the use of similes.

Comparing information in a text with personal experience and knowledge.

**Summary**

This book describes the features and behaviour of elephants.

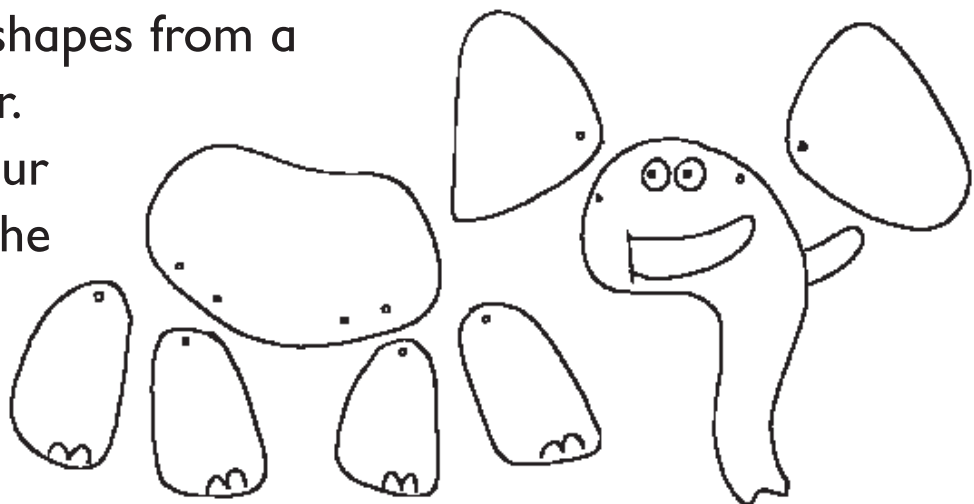
### Task Card

## Elephant mobile

You will need:

coathanger, cardboard, scissors, pencils, coloured pencils, sticky tape, string or wool

1. Think of the facts you know about elephants.
2. Using cardboard, cut out shapes of different parts of an elephant's body.
3. Write a fact about each body part on the cardboard shape.
4. Hang the shapes from a coathanger.
5. Display your mobile in the classroom.

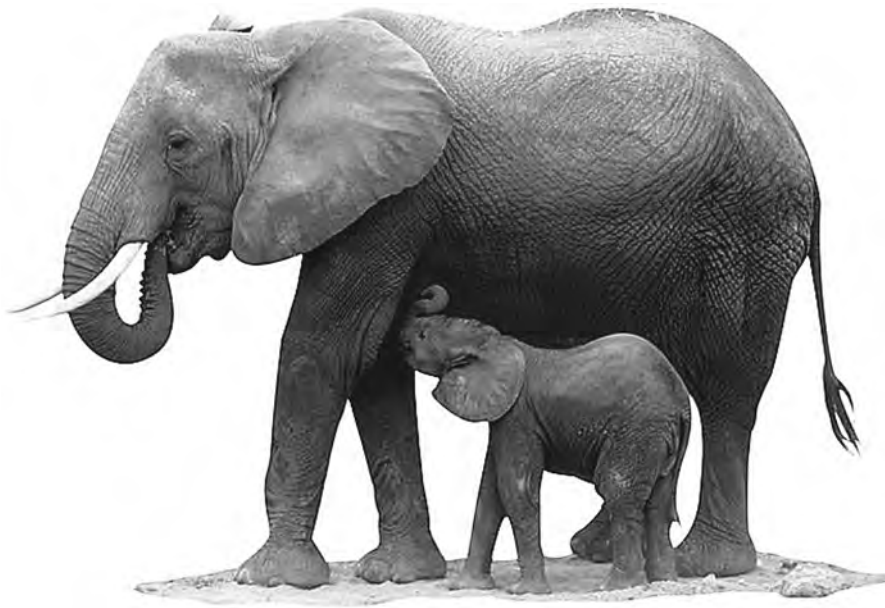




Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Elephant facts

Write what you know about elephants. Choose the most interesting facts that you can remember.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Cloze

Fill in the missing words.

## **Strong trunks**

An elephant has \_\_\_\_\_ 150,000 muscles in its trunk.

An \_\_\_\_\_ trunk can smell food, water and predators.

It is \_\_\_\_\_ enough to lift a baby elephant from a mud hole. It is \_\_\_\_\_ enough to pick a single leaf from a tree.

It can suck up water and \_\_\_\_\_ it over the elephant's body to help the elephant stay \_\_\_\_\_.

It can make \_\_\_\_\_ noises to help elephants communicate with each other.

So an elephant's \_\_\_\_\_ is like a nose, an arm, a hand, a shower and a loudspeaker, all in one!

## **Thick skin**

An elephant's skin can be three centimetres \_\_\_\_\_, but many flies and mosquitoes still \_\_\_\_\_ through it.

Elephants \_\_\_\_\_ themselves with mud to stay cool and to protect their skin from \_\_\_\_\_ and insect bites.

The wrinkles in an elephant's \_\_\_\_\_ trap moisture so that it does not \_\_\_\_\_ out in the heat.