

An Elephant's Trunk

by Leroy Taylor

Overview

This book shows various ways that an elephant uses its trunk.

Literacy Focus *Word Count: 49 words*

High Frequency Words

an, has, long, to, very

Content Words

elephant, trunk, smell, dig, eat, drink, wash, hug

Reinforcing Decoding Skills

- **Initial Consonant Blends:**
tr, dr (trunk, drink)
- **Short Vowel Sounds:** *e, u (smell, hug)*

Print Conventions

- Understanding that print represents spoken language

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- Identifying main ideas
- Reading along with predictable, patterned text

Writing/Speaking and Listening

- Writing about animals
- Listening to information about animals
- Participating in group discussions

Observe/Assess

See Oral Reading Records on page 180.

Science Focus

Content and Thinking Skills

- Recognizing that different animals have adaptations that help them survive
- Recognizing that elephants use their trunks to perform many functions

Background Information

Elephants are the largest land mammals on Earth. They have trunks, which are adaptations that help the elephants survive in their environment. An elephant's trunk is strong enough to tear a large branch from a tree. It can also be used for delicate tasks, such as picking up an object as small as a peanut.

Correlation to National Standards

Life Science

- Characteristics of Organisms

See Standards Chart on page 202.

Literacy Focus

Set the Scene

Ask children if they have ever seen an elephant. Ask:

What does an elephant look like?

Read and Discuss

Cover and Title Page

Show children the cover and title page. Ask children to point to the elephant's trunk in the picture. Have them tell what they think the book is about.

Pages 2-3

Point to and say the word *smell*. Help children understand that they smell with their noses and elephants smell with trunks.

Pages 4-5

Have children follow along as you read aloud. Ask:

Do you think the elephant's trunk is hard or soft?

How does the trunk help an elephant eat?

Pages 6-7

Read the text and point to the picture. Some children may think an elephant drinks through its trunk. Explain that an elephant uses its trunk to take in water and pour the water into its mouth. So an elephant drinks through its mouth, not its trunk.

Page 8

Read the text aloud. Point out the word *bug*. Ask children if people hug like elephants and have them explain their responses. Then review the book by asking:

What do you think the main idea of the book is?

Respond

- Point out the words *trunk* and *drink* on page 6. Write these words on the board and say the words *trick*, *drop*, *treat*, *drive*, and *trap*. Have children underline the *tr* or *dr* in each word on the board.

- Write the words *smell* and *bug* on the board and explain that *smell* has a short *e* vowel sound and *bug* has a short *u* vowel sound. Have children suggest words that rhyme with *smell* or *bug*.

○	○	○	○
smell	bell	tell	sell
hug	bug	jug	rug



Content Words

Activity Master, page 12

Have children complete the Activity Master, page 12, by drawing a line from the picture to the word that matches it.



English Language Learners

Discuss the meaning of *trunk* as used in the book. Then discuss other meanings of the word—a woody tree stem, a large storage box, back storage area of a car, and shorts for swimming. Have children draw and label pictures for each meaning.

Science Focus

Science Concept

Animal adaptations help them survive. Elephants have trunks with which they can smell, dig, take in water, and communicate.

Activities

An Elephant at Home

Point out that elephants may live in forests or grasslands. Have children draw pictures of elephants in their natural surroundings.

Elephant/Person Chart

On the board, write two chart headings: *Elephant* and *Person*. Down the side of the chart, write *smell*, *dig*, *eat*, *drink*, *wash*, and *bug*. Ask children to tell what an elephant and what a person uses for each activity. Record their responses.

Elephants in Action

Have each child make an elephant mask out of paper. Have children pretend to be elephants and pantomime the activities shown in the book.



Elephant Trunks

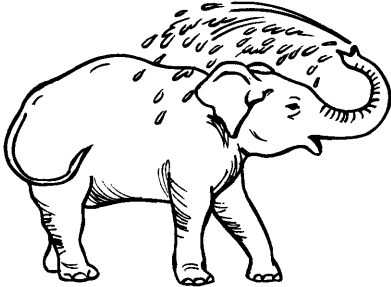
Activity Master, page 13

Have children complete each sentence on the Activity Master, page 13, with words from the Word Bank.

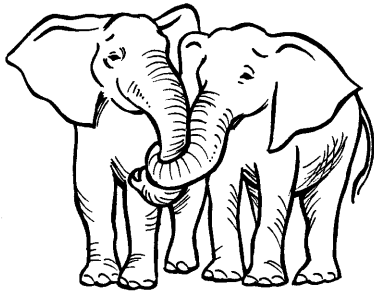
Name _____

An Elephant's Trunk

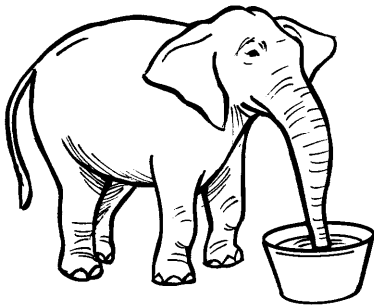
Draw a line from the picture to the word that it matches.



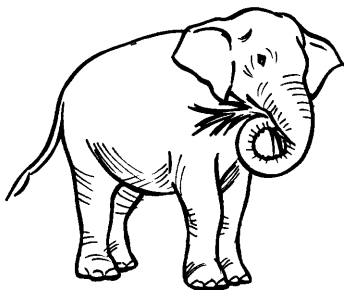
drink



eat



wash



hug

