

# Kid Scoop®

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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## MEET THE ELEPHANTS

Elephants are the largest land animals in the world. But not all elephants are the same. Most scientists divide elephants into two main groups: **African** elephants and **Asian** elephants. (Some scientists say that the forest and grassland elephants of Africa are so different that there should be three groups of elephants – Asian and two groups of African. What would you call the different African elephants?)

**Standards Link:** Life Science; students know there is variation among populations.

### African Elephants

African elephants are \_\_\_\_\_ than Asian elephants. They have large ears shaped a little like the continent of \_\_\_\_\_. Large ears help keep the elephant \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ African plains. African elephants have a sway back and very \_\_\_\_\_ skin. They also \_\_\_\_\_ have a rounded head without any big bumps.

### Asian Elephants

Asian elephants live in \_\_\_\_\_ forest areas and they have \_\_\_\_\_ ears. They also have rounded backs, smoother skin and a high forehead with two "bumps."

**Height: 10 feet (3.05 meters)**  
**Weight: 12,000 lbs (5443 kilograms)**

**Height: 9 feet (2.75 meters)**  
**Weight: 10,000 lbs (4535 kilograms)**

The missing words from the above paragraphs can be found in order along the correct path.

**Standards Link:** Life Science; Students know that adaptations in physical structure may improve an animal's chance for survival; animals have structures that serve different functions in growth, survival and reproduction. Height and weight are for the average male of each species.

## Trunk Truths

One of these statements is false. Which one? (Answer at right.)

- The first elephants appeared about 50 million years ago. The first elephant, called Moeritherium (meer-uh-THEER-ee-um), was only about 2 feet tall and had no trunk.
- Asian elephants have one small "finger" at the end of their trunks for grasping. African elephants have two "fingers."
- Elephant trunks contain bones similar to the human spine.
- There are more than 100,000 muscles in the trunk, making it very flexible and strong enough to lift whole trees.

**Standards Link:** Life Science; animals have different structures to help them survive.

### Partners

People need animals and animals need people. Look through the newspaper for examples of how people and animals need each other.

**Standards Link:** Life Science/Ecology; students know organisms in an ecosystem can support each other.

## Elephant Hides

The skin of an elephant is rough and wrinkled. In fact, the creases in the lower part of their legs can be used to tell elephants apart. Like fingerprints, every elephant has its very own crease pattern.

Which picture comes next in each pattern below?

**Standards Link:** Math/Reasoning: Extend simple patterns.

## Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

ELEPHANTS	S	W	S	E	G	A	P	I	L	L
SCIENTISTS	L	T	E	K	C	A	S	I	A	N
TRUNKS	O	L	N	I	I	K	O	L	R	T
SOCKS	O	E	R	A	N	N	C	L	G	R
ASIAN	C	F	P	U	H	H	K	I	E	E
WRINKLED	A	S	R	A	E	P	S	A	C	E
AFRICA	S	T	S	I	T	N	E	I	C	S
LARGE	N	T	W	R	I	N	K	L	E	D
EARS	S	N	R	E	T	T	A	P	E	K
SKIN										
PAGES										
COOL										
PATTERN										
TREES										

**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognizing identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

## BEYOND Kid Scoop

### Elephant Measure

Cut several pages of the newspaper into long strips. Use the columns to guide you. Tape the strips together until you have enough to show the height of Asian and African elephants.

**Standards Link:** Math; students measure using nonstandard units.

## Write On!

Send your story to:  
Press & Dakotan  
C/o Mike Hrycko  
319 Walnut Street  
Yankton, SD 57078  
605-665-7811, ext 104

### I built my house of...

Finish this sentence and write five details about your home.

**Deadline:** October 27 **Published:** Week of Nov. 24  
Please include your school and grade.

## Weekly Writing Corner

### If Elephants Could Fly ...

Finish this story.

If elephants could fly, every time they flew by we would think there were big, dark rain clouds. But if they flew in a clump in front of the sun, we would call it an elephant eclipse.

**India, 2nd grade**

If elephants could fly, we would need large umbrellas.

**Rachel, 8th grade**

If elephants could fly, that would mean dogs could talk. If dogs could talk, then dolphins could walk. If dolphins could walk, then bats could see. Then what would this strange world come to be?

**Lindsey, 8th grade**

If elephants could fly then I would want one as a pet. I would be up in the air soaring high in the sky. I would call him Babe and he would live with me and we would be best friends.

**Jenny, 5th grade**

If elephants could fly, I think that we wouldn't need cars because all you would have to do is get a ride from an elephant. Then we might get really advanced and have elephant taxis.

**Kenny, 6th grade**

If elephants could fly, then pigs could burrow. Chickens would have lips and pythons would have hips. And moles would live above the ground. If only elephants could fly!

**Alex, 6th grade**

If elephants could fly, there might be danger. Elephants are huge and fat. If they fell on you, you might die. What if they crashed into a building? So let's just be happy with the elephants the way they are.

**Sammy-Jo, 5th grade**