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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Name:

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.



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)

The missing words from the above paragraphs can be found in order along the correct path in the maze on page 2.

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

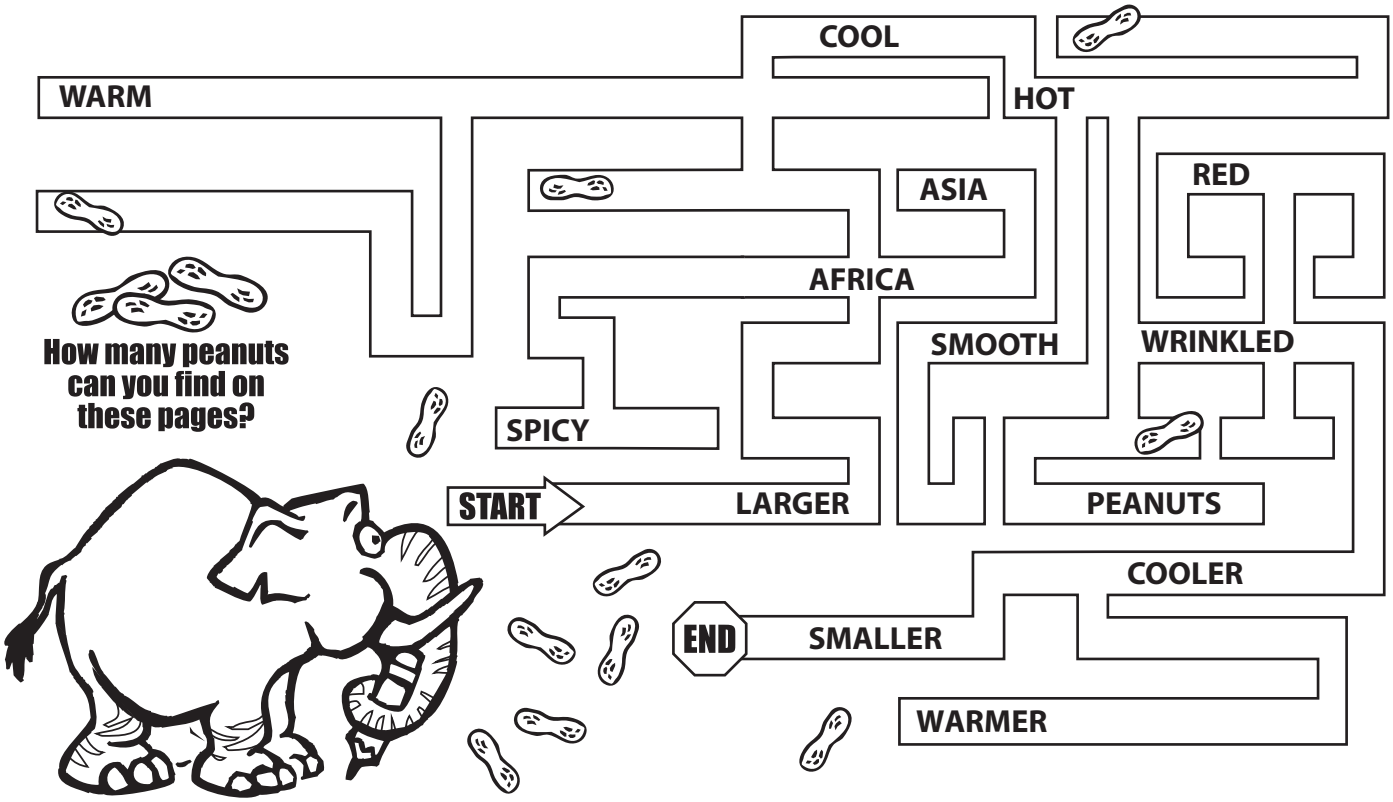


African Elephants

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.

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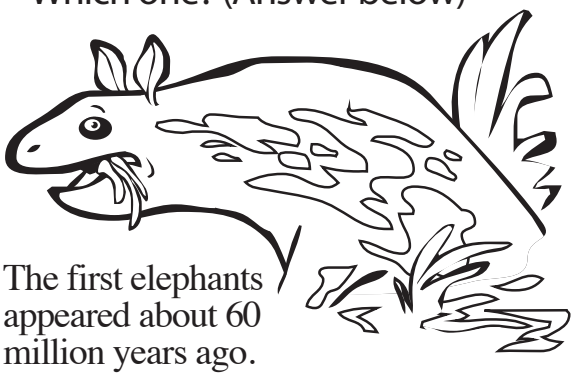
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Standards Link: Life Science: Students know that adaptations in physical structure may improve an animal's chance for survival; animals have structures that serve different functions in growth, survival and reproduction. Height and weight are for the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

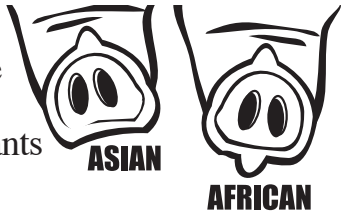
Trunk Truths

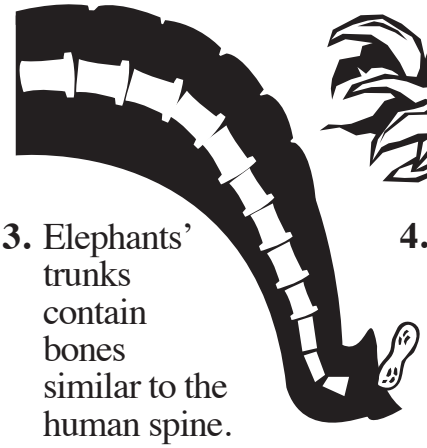
One of these statements is false.
Which one? (Answer below)



1. The first elephants appeared about 60 million years ago. One early relative, called Moeritherium (meer-uh-THEER-ee-um), was only about 2 feet (0.6 m) tall and had no trunk.

2. Asian elephants have one small "finger" at the end of their trunks for grasping. African elephants have two "fingers."





3. Elephants' trunks contain bones similar to the human spine.



4. There are more than 100,000 muscles in the trunk, making it very flexible, and strong enough to lift whole trees.

ANSWER: #3 is false. There are no bones in an elephant's trunk.

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have different structures to help them survive.

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Kid Scoop Together

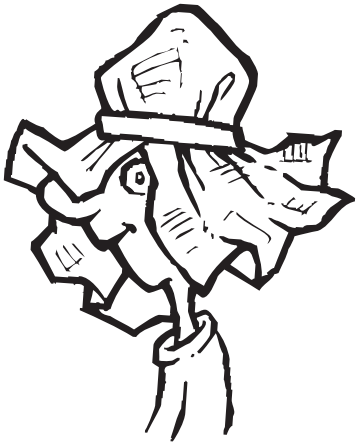
Newspaper Hat

Hat-making fun for two!

1. Drape a page of the newspaper over your friend's head.



2. Wrap tape around your friend's forehead—outside of the paper.



3. Crinkle up the paper hanging below the tape and shape it to form a creative hat brim.



4. Decorate the hat with strips of construction paper, feathers, flowers, small toys or whatever you like!



5. Repeat and have your friend help you make your own hat.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step written directions.

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.

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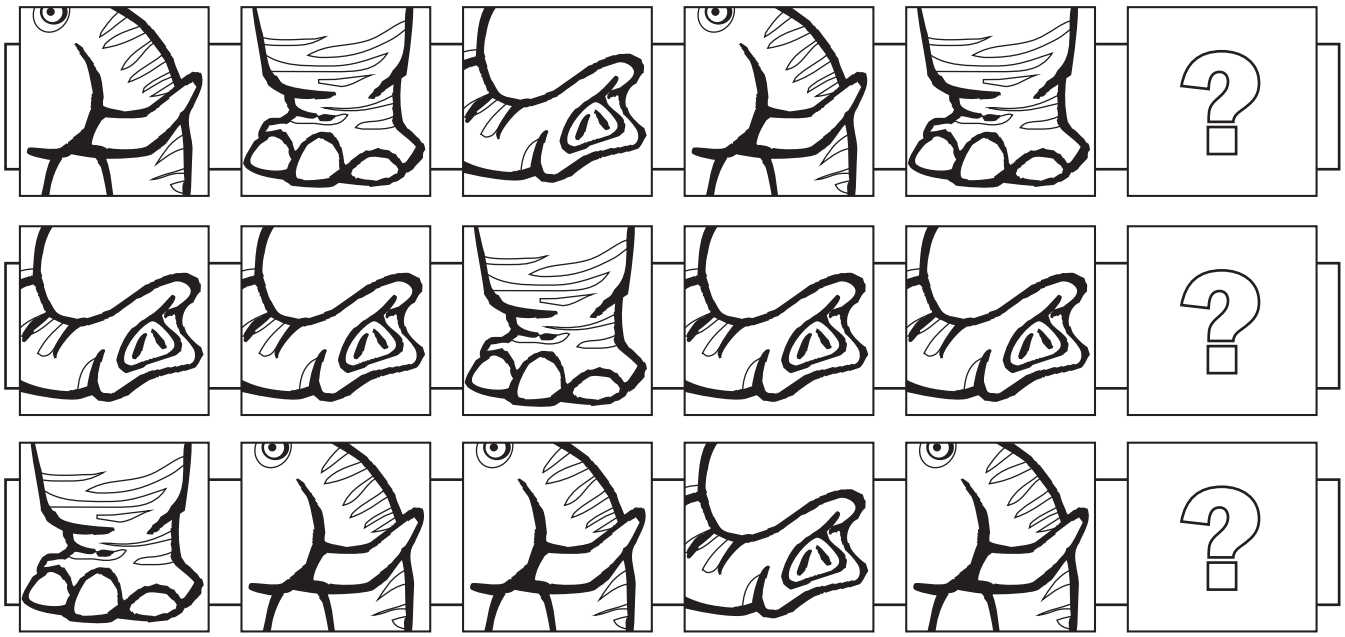
Name:

Puzzler

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.

VOCABULARY BUILDERS

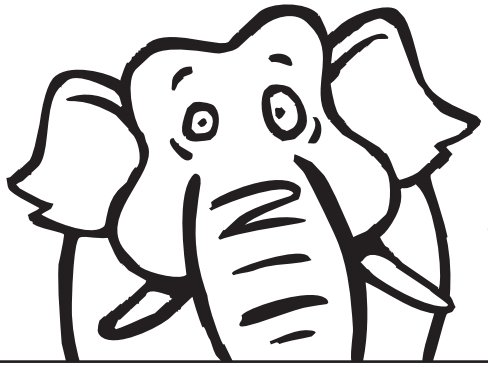
SEEK

The verb **seek** means to try to find, to look for.

When outside, **seek** shady places to play.

Try to use the word **seek** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

How do you make an elephant float?



ANSWER: With a large glass, two scoops of ice cream, a bottle of root beer and one elephant.

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Name:

Write On! Animal Riddles

I have a long neck and brown spots. I like to eat leaves high in a tree. What am I?

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.

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Kid Scoop Jumbo Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards and diagonally. Then look for them in these *Kid Scoop* activity pages.

ELEPHANTS
SCIENTISTS
TRUNKS
SOCKS
ASIAN
WRINKLED
AFRICA
LARGE
EARS
SKIN
PAGES
COOL
PATTERN
TREES

S	W	S	E	G	A	P	I	L	L
L	T	E	K	C	A	S	I	A	N
O	L	N	I	I	K	O	L	R	T
O	E	R	A	N	N	C	L	G	R
C	F	P	U	H	H	K	I	E	E
A	S	R	A	E	P	S	A	C	E
S	T	S	I	T	N	E	I	C	S
N	T	W	R	I	N	K	L	E	D
S	N	R	E	T	T	A	P	E	K

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

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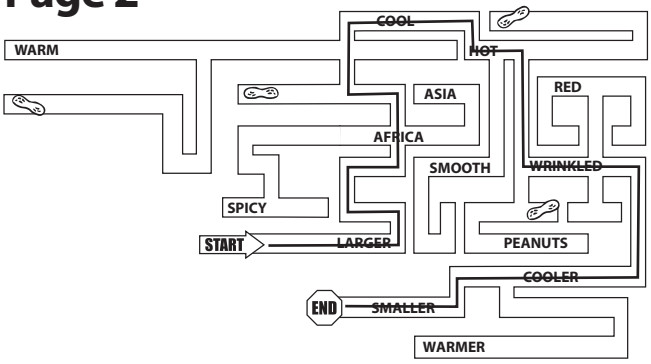
Answers

Page 1

African Elephants
larger
Africa
cool
hot
wrinkled

Asian Elephants
cooler
smaller

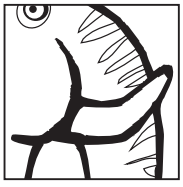
Page 2



Page 4







Page 6

S	W	S	E	G	A	P	I	L	L
L	T	E	K	C	A	S	I	A	N
O	L	N	I	I	K	O	L	R	T
O	E	R	A	N	N	C	L	G	R
C	F	P	U	H	H	K	I	E	E
A	S	R	A	E	P	S	A	C	E
S	T	S	I	T	N	E	I	C	S
N	T	W	R	I	N	K	L	E	D
S	N	R	E	T	T	A	P	E	K