

# Science Story Adventures



## African Elephants

### Learning outcomes

- » Plants and animals have predictable life cycles. (Grade 2 - Life Sciences).
- » Adaptations in physical structure or behavior may improve an organism's chance for survival. (Grade 3 - Life Sciences)

*From: California's Science Content Standards*

### Books we read

*Little Bull* by Ellen Foley James

*Bashi, Elephant Baby* by Theresa Radcliffe

*Elephant's Story* by Harriet Blackford

### Activities we did

- » Elephant communication from *Elephants and their Young: Science and Math Activities for Young Children* by Jean C. Echols, Jaine Kopp, Ellen Blinderman with Kimi Hosoume.

### Today's craft: Communicating Elephant Puppet



### You will need:

- » Elephant template (attached)
- » Gray or black crayons
- » Scissors
- » Googly eyes
- » 3 Fasteners
- » Sharp point to make holes
- » Tongue depressor
- » Scotch tape

### Directions:

1. Color the elephant's body, ears and trunks
2. Cut all the pieces out.
3. Make holes where indicated (an adult should help you do this)
4. Fasten the ears and trunk to the body, using the fasteners.
5. Put on two googly eyes.
6. Stick the tongue depressor to your elephant's back.
7. Now your elephants can move its ears and trunk to communicate to other members of the herd!

*Adapted from <http://www.thebestkidsbooksite.com/craftdetails.cfm?TopicID=20>*

# Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

## Books

*Akimbo and the Elephants* by Alexander McCall Smith. Nat. Ctr. Juv. PZ7 .M47 Akm 2007  
On the African game preserve where his father works, Akimbo devises a dangerous plan to capture a ring of elephant poachers.

*Elephants* by Jenny Markert. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL737 .P98 M369 2007  
Good photos and basic information.

*Tarra and Bella* by Carol Buckley. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL795 .E4 B825 2009  
A story of an elephant and a dog who became best friends.

## DVDs

*Africa's Incredible Hulks: Unforgettable Elephants.*  
Originally produced for the television series, Nature.

## Websites

*African Wildlife Foundation*  
Information about African elephants from an organization that is working to conserve them.  
<http://www.awf.org/content/wildlife/detail/elephant>

*National Geographic Creature Feature: African Elephants*  
Fun facts and photos along with some video and sound recordings.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/animals/creaturefeature/african-elephant/>

*National Zoo: African Elephants*  
The lowdown on African elephants including where they live, what they eat and what the future holds for them.

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/AfricanSavanna/fact-afelephant.cfm>

