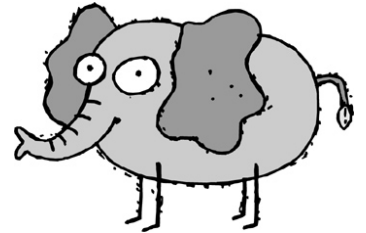


# ALL ABOUT ELEPHANTS!

By "Mr. B", Public Educator at the Phoenix Zoo

Can an elephant drink water through it's trunk like a big giant straw? What is the difference between African and Asian elephants? What do elephants eat?

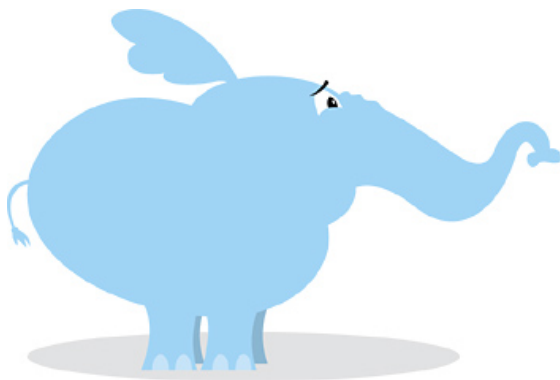


## Further Resources

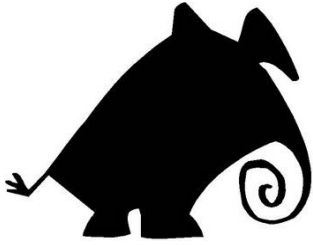
### Website recommendations

- <http://elephant.elehost.com/>
- [www.worldwildlife.org/elephants/](http://www.worldwildlife.org/elephants/)
- <http://www.savetheelephants.org/>
- [The Ivory Wars](#)

### Book recommendations



- ["The Astonishing Elephant" by Shana Alexander](#)
- ["Elephants" by Clive Spinage](#)
- ["Little Big Ears: The Story of Ely" by Cynthia Moss](#)



## critical Thinking Questions:

What special challenges do elephants have to deal with?

What are the differences between African and Asian elephants?

### Elephant Teeth!

#### Molar from african elephant

The [african elephant](#) (*Loxodonta africana*) :

- Is more adapted to a browsing diet, feeding mainly on branches from trees and bushes
- Has [loxodont](#) (Loxodonta means 'sloping teeth') molars.
- Each molar has a maximum of 10 ridges.



#### Molar from asian elephant

The [asian elephant](#) (*Elephas maximus*) :

- Is more adapted to a grass diet
- has molars with parallel ridges.
- can have more than 20 ridges per molar.





## Activity 1

Research Ivory and find out why this is such a big problem for elephant survival. Learn how ivory is hunted and what it is used for. Create a poster to deter people from buying Ivory.



## Activity 2

### What Shape Is An Elephant?

Give students a sheet of construction paper and ask them to tear 6 shapes from this.

- The largest shape needs to be a square.
- Next tear a triangle about half the size of the square.
- Tear 4 rectangles all the same size.
- Put the shapes together to make an elephant that looks like he is walking.
- Add details with felt pen (eyes, wiggly lines for wrinkle skin, a tail)



### Activity 3

Name these Famous elephants. Why are they famous? Where have you seen them before? Can you think of any other famous elephants? Does your local zoo have any elephants? Find out their names and any information about them and write a short essay about them.

