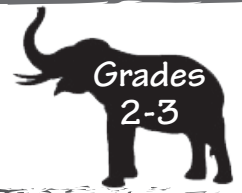




How are African and Asian elephants alike and different?



This lesson will introduce students to African and Asian elephants. Students will be read two stories, one about an African elephant, and one about an Asian elephant, and will draw features on an elephant silhouette based on the description in the story.

Subject Area: Science, Language Arts, Art

Background Information: Pages 4-5

Students will be able to:

- Draw an African and Asian elephant
- List three differences between the two elephant species

Materials:

- Activity Sheet 1: The Stories of African and Asian Elephants;
- Activity Sheet 2: African Elephant (1 each per student);
- Activity Sheet 3: Asian Elephant (1 each per student);
- Pencil, crayons, coloring pencils, or markers.

Learning Activities:

Preparation

1. Introduce the students to African and Asian elephants. Ask the students have they ever seen an African or Asian elephant? Can they name any differences between African and Asian elephants?
2. Distribute the African Elephant and Asian Elephant activity sheets 1 and 2, pencils, crayons, coloring pencils or markers.

Activity

3. Either break the students into smaller groups, with some students reading the story while others draw, or you can choose to read the stories to the class. While the story is being read, have the student draw the features described in the story on the appropriate elephant silhouette. Ask them to draw in the elephant's habitat that is mentioned in the story. After the story, have the students color the habitat with crayons, coloring pencils, or markers.

Discussion

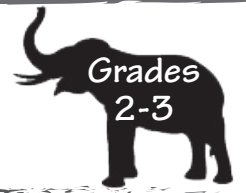
4. Discuss their drawing using the answer sheet included in this lesson and the questions below:
 - How are African and Asian Elephants similar? *They have trunks, large bodies, ears that cool their body, pillar-like legs, and sparse hair.*
 - How are they different? *African elephants have square heads, large ears, and a sway (dipped) back. Asian elephants have rounded heads, smaller ears, and a humped back. How are their trunks different? African elephants have two finger-like extensions at the end of their trunk, while Asian elephants have one finger-like extension.*
 - How are the habitats of African and Asian elephants different? *African savannah elephants live on the savannah grasslands. Asian elephants are found mainly in the forest.*

Extensions

- Have the students write their own story about the elephant that they drew. Encourage them to share their story with their friends and family.



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The Story of an African Elephant

One day, Jahzara was walking through the African savanna, a grassland dotted with trees, on her way to school and she saw an amazing large tembo, or elephant. Jahzara paused under an Acacia tree, a safe distance from the elephant and watched. Since the elephant was by itself, Jahzara knew that it was a male elephant. She guessed that the elephant was twice as tall as her father or about 12 feet tall! The elephant had wrinkly skin and its back had a dip in the middle. The elephant was whipping its long tail hairs around to keep bugs away. The elephant had a large head which was square on top. Jahzara noticed the elephant was flapping its enormous ears to stay cool. The ears were very large and straight on top, round like a circle on the side and came to a point at the bottom, shaped kind of like the continent of Africa! Both ears had a few rips and tears in them from where the elephant had caught its ears on branches. The ears also had a lot of veins, which is good because it helps the elephant stay cool. Jahzara noticed the elephant's large eyes and incredibly long eyelashes. She knew the long eyelashes helped keep dust out of the elephant's eyes.

Jahzara was amazed by the elephant's large tusks, which almost touched the ground! The tusks were long and straight, showing the elephant was quite old. The elephant was using its trunk to smell the ground and pick up pieces of grass and plants to eat. Jahzara could see the tip of the trunk looked like it had two fingers at the end.

The elephant was walking away from Jahzara and her family's boma, or home, leaving big round footprints in the sand. Jahzara knelt down and counted the toes on the footprints. By looking at the prints, Jahzara knew that the front feet had 4 toes and the back feet had 3 toes. As Jahzara watched the elephant walk away, she was proud that elephants live in Africa with her.

The Story of an Asian Elephant

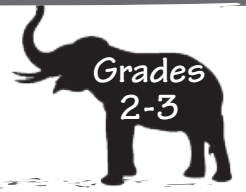
Malik was in the forest playing with his friends one day when he saw a beautiful gajah, or elephant. Malik thought that the elephant looked as tall as his mom and dad combined, so over 11 feet tall! Malik admired the strong, humped back of the elephant. The elephant had tusks, so Malik knew that the elephant was a male. Some male elephants have big tusks, although not all do. Female Asian elephants have very small tusks that are hard to see from far away.

The elephant's head had two big bumps, or domes, on it. The elephant's ears were small and slanted down, with two points on either side at the bottom. The eyes of the elephant were large and set on the side of the face. Malik noticed that the elephant had a lot of light-colored freckles on the edge of its ears and face, which meant the elephant was older.

As Malik watched, the elephant used its trunk to find some tasty branches on the ground and brought the branches to its mouth. When the elephant did this, Malik could see that the trunk looked like it had one finger at the end. The elephant was walking away from his family's rumah, or home, and coffee farm. The elephant was leaving large footprints in the mud. Once the elephant was a safe distance away, Malik bent to look at the footprints. He saw that the front footprints had 5 toes and the back footprints had 4 toes. As Malik watched the stunning elephant walk away, he was honored to have seen an elephant, one of his country's national treasures.



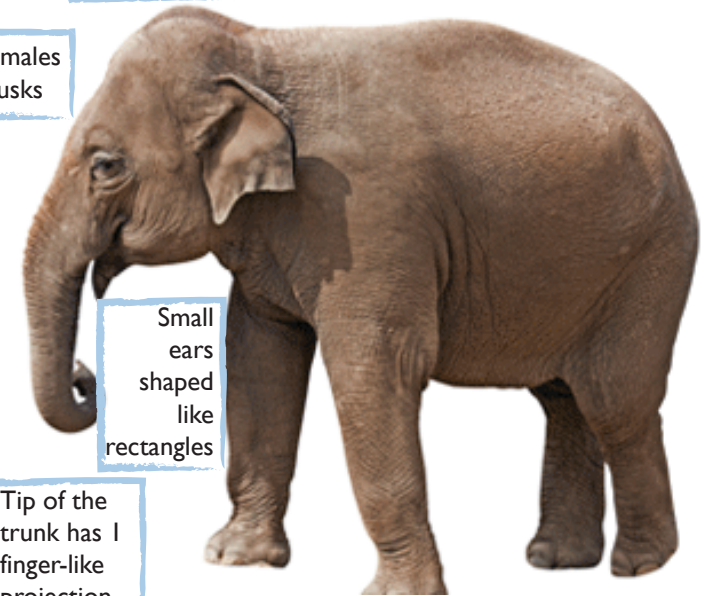
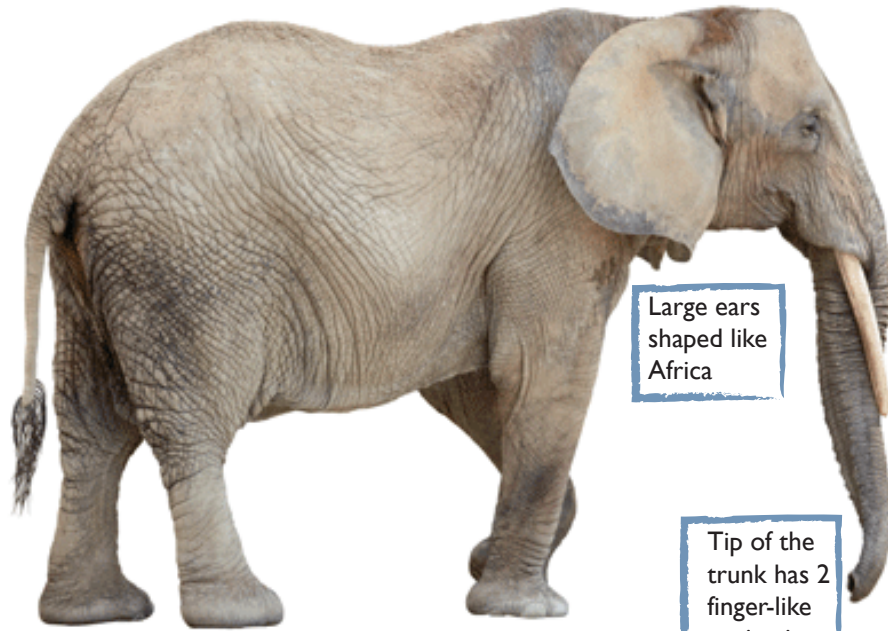
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Activity Sheet 1

African Elephant

Asian Elephant



Are 8-13 feet tall

Head is more square

Head has 2 rounded bumps

Are 7-12 feet tall

Some males have tusks

Large ears shaped like Africa

Males and females both have tusks

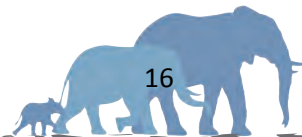
Small ears shaped like rectangles

Tip of the trunk has 2 finger-like projections

Tip of the trunk has 1 finger-like projection

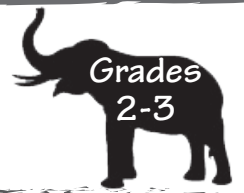
Weigh 8,000-13,000 pounds

Weigh 6,000-12,000 pounds



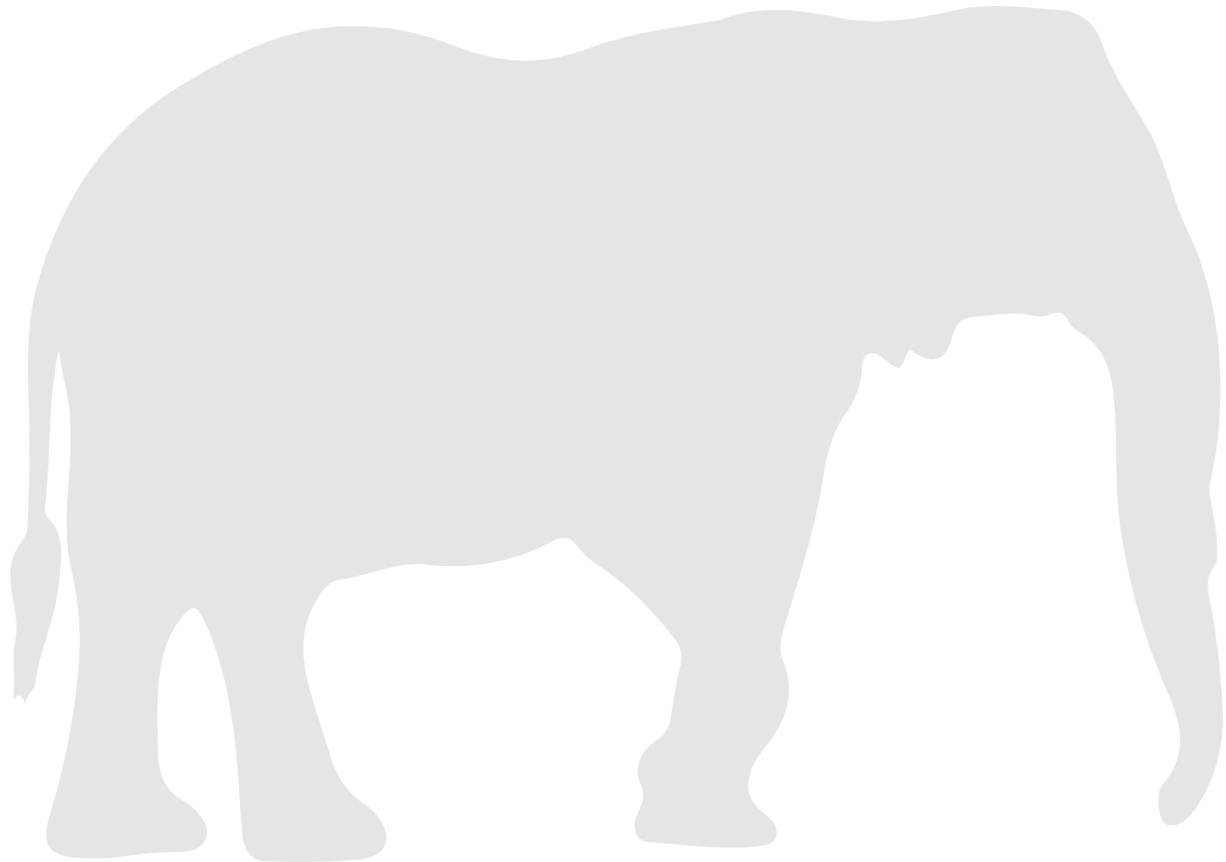


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Activity Sheet 2

African Elephant

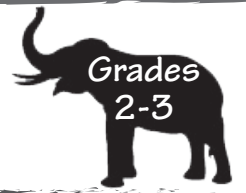


My elephant's name is _____.

My elephant is an _____ elephant.

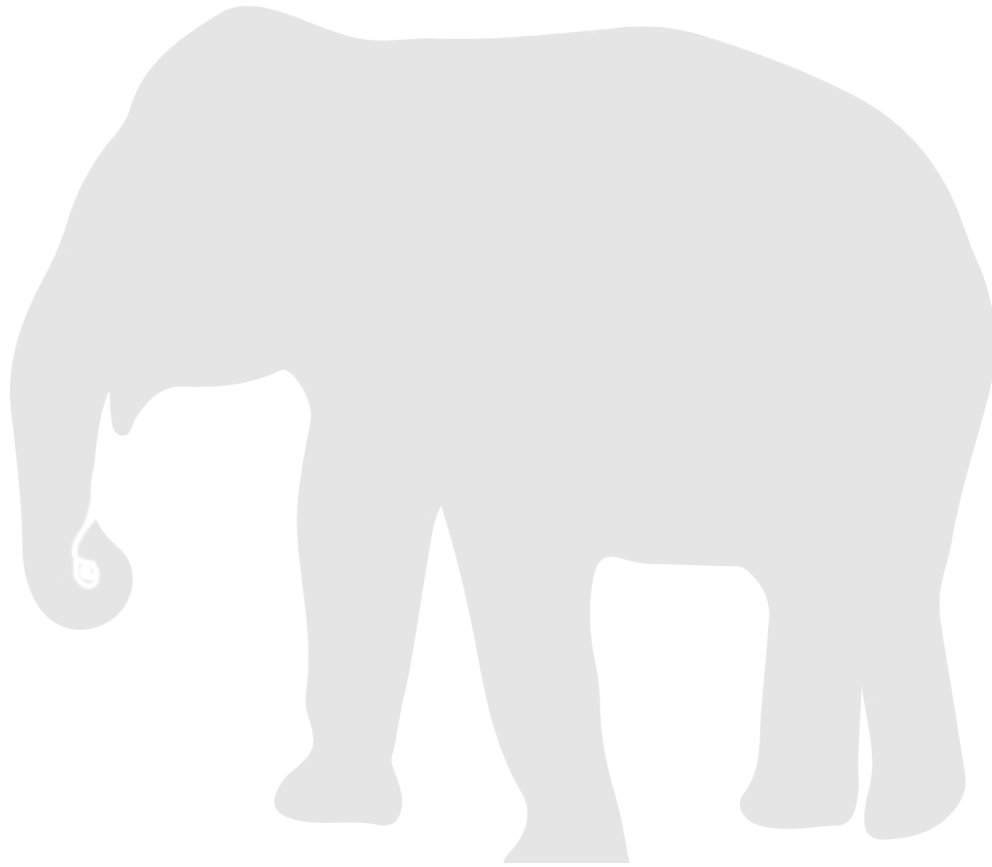


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Activity Sheet 3

Asian Elephant



My elephant's name is _____.

My elephant is an _____ elephant.