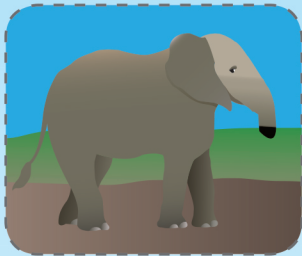


Answer questions

How the Elephant got its Trunk: Part 1. By Rudyard Kipling.

Read the made-up story and answer questions along the way.



Long, l-o-o-o-ng ago, elephants did not have trunks. They had lumpy black noses instead. At that time, a very little elephant lived with his family in Africa. The little elephant asked questions about everything.

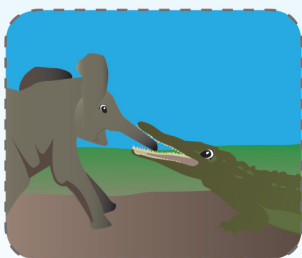
a Why do you think the author wrote the word 'l-o-o-o-ng' like this?



One morning, the little elephant asked, "What does the crocodile eat for dinner?"

A passing bird told him he should go to the river and find out for himself. The little elephant had never seen a crocodile, but off he went to find one. Just as he got to the river --THUNK!-- he tripped over a log. At least, that's what he thought it was.

b What do you think he tripped over? Give a reason for your answer.



"Excuse me." said the little elephant. "Have you seen a crocodile around here? I want to ask him what he eats for supper."

"I am a crocodile. I'll whisper the answer in your ear", said the crocodile.



c Why does the crocodile whisper the answer?

d Should the little elephant trust the crocodile? Why do you say so?

e What would you have done?

The little elephant got down on his knees, put his head near the crocodile's large mouth, and...

f What do you think happens next?

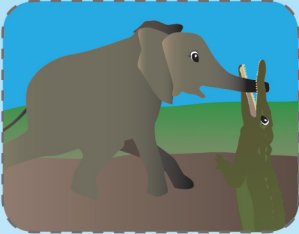
CHOMP! Crocodile grabbed the little elephant by his lumpy black nose.

"I'll eat a little elephant for dinner today!" said Crocodile, with his mouth full.

How the Elephant got its Trunk: Part 2

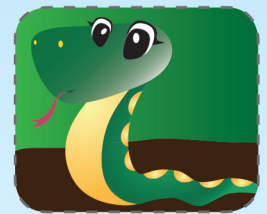
"Ow! Let go! That hurts!" squealed the little elephant.

The little elephant pulled back as hard as he could. He pulled so hard that his nose began to stretch. The harder he pulled, the longer his nose became.



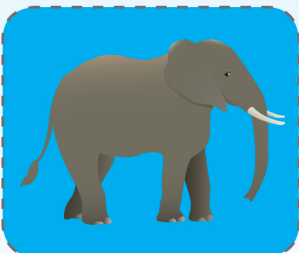
Suddenly, the little elephant began slipping into the water. A big snake quickly wrapped his body around the little elephant and began to pull back too. The

little elephant was saved from the crocodile, but his nose was now two metres long! "Thank you, snake. You saved my life! Now, I will sit here and wait for my nose to shrink", said the little elephant. But the little elephant's nose didn't shrink. The crocodile had pulled it into a long trunk!



g Why do you think his trunk did not shrink back?

h Give reasons why the little elephant trusted the snake.



At first, the little elephant was sad. But soon he discovered many ways to use his new nose. He could hit a fly on his shoulder. He could scoop up cool mud and plop it on his head.

i What else do you know elephants can do with their trunks?

So the little elephant went home happily swinging his new trunk. When he arrived, his family laughed and wanted to know where and how he had got his long nose.

- j** Were the little elephant's family unkind to laugh?
Give a reason for saying so.

He said the crocodile had given it to him and explained all the new things he could do with it. When they saw how useful the little elephant's trunk was, all the elephants wanted one. One by one, they went to the river to get a new nose from the crocodile. And that's why today, all elephants have trunks not lumpy black noses.

- k** Give reasons why you think this story is true or not true.



As some learners may already know this story, ask that they not spoil the surprise for others. Usually teachers would like learners to read ahead at their own pace, but in this instance, a suggestion is to ask the learners to cover the text and only reveal a line at a time, so as not to spoil the surprise.

Questions to pose before reading could include discussions on fables, myths and legends, why we make up stories and about how and why things happen.

Some extra questions:

1st paragraph: Why do you think the author mentioned elephants in Africa and not a particular country? Do you think the little elephant was foolish to go closer to the crocodile? Why? What other stories have you heard about why animals look like they do?

Reading and Phonics

Answers higher order questions before, during and after reading a shared text: "What would happen if..."