

Class 2-314 would like to dedicate this book, Amazing Elephants, to Mrs. Shaw because she is the teacher that tagged along to help create this book. Thank you for all of your help.

We would also like to dedicate this book to our parents. Thank you for feeding us, taking us places and buying things for us.



Cesar



Ashley H.

Amazing Elephants

Written and Illustrated By Class 2-314
Ms. Trupia, Teacher



Police Officer Ramon Suarez School
P. S. 239
Robin L. Connolly, Principal

Stella Kostopoulos, Lisa Hampton, Debra Rudolph
Assistant Principals

Introduction

This book represents the culminating activity of an inquiry based research project that integrates information literacy with nonfiction and science. Every child participated in the process of posing questions and researching material. Children learned the value of reading for information from books and web sites and working together in groups. They also learned important nonfiction skills such as organizing information into chapters, illustrating text with diagrams using captions and labels and defining new vocabulary words in a glossary. As you read, you will notice the glossary words appear in **bold** type.

Teachers worked collaboratively at different stages of researching, writing, and illustrating this book. They are:

Ms. Trupia	Classroom Teacher
Mr. Alleva	Science Teacher
Ms. Shaw	Technology Teacher
Ms. Sharma	Learning Leader
Ms. Komae	Library Teacher
Mrs. Hampton	Assistant Principal

<p>We wish to take this opportunity to formally thank Councilwoman Diana Reyna for upgrading our computer lab in the spring of 2009.</p>

A special note of thanks goes to **Esperanza Cancel**, President of our Parents Association and the parents for binding the books. We are forever in their debt.

Thank you one and all!

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Brandon

About the Authors

Hi! We are from Class 2-314 at P.S. 239. Our school is located in Ridgewood, Queens. We are between the ages of 7 and 8 years old. Our class loves music and our class loves the Forest Dance with Kevin and Hassan. Our class picked elephants because we want to know all about elephants and it was a great topic we write on. And we also love art a lot. We hope you enjoy our book.

*Abdul
Ashley H
Britney
Bryant
Cesar
Crystal
Esmeralda
Jose
Kiran
Mei
Roselynn
Shania*



*Elephants help welcome the guests at
Ms. Sharma's wedding*

*Ashley R
Brandon
Bryan
Catherine
Christian
Emily
Jared
Karoline
Lennin
Merolyn
Rosemary
William*

What does an elephant look like?

Jose and Bryan

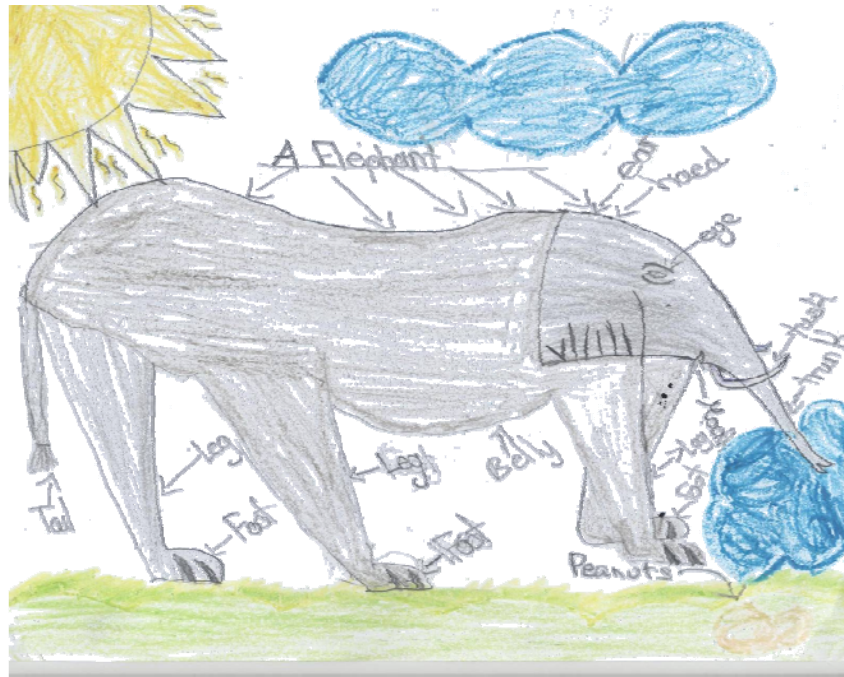
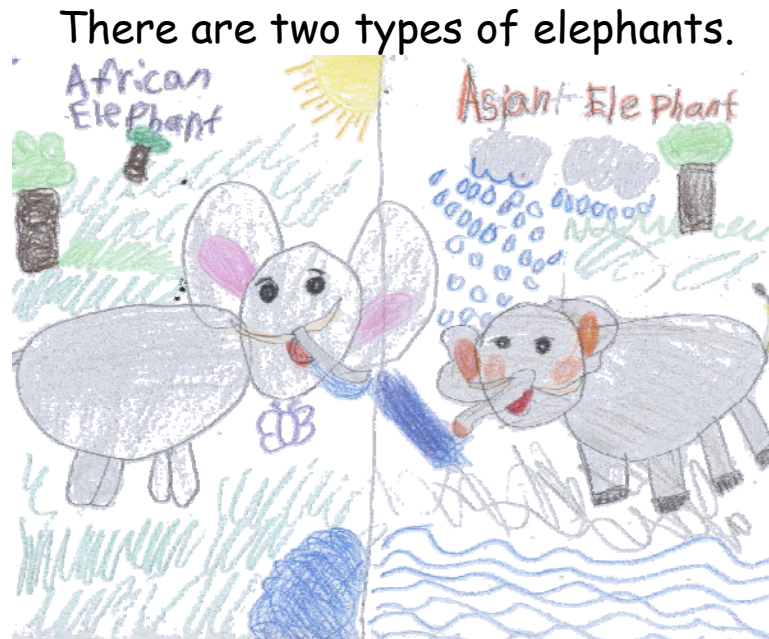


Diagram of an elephant's anatomy

Elephants are **mammals**. They have trunks. They have tusks. They use their tusks to hunt and to carry things and to dig and to fight. They have very, very big ears. The bottom of their feet is soft and like a cushion.

Different kinds of elephants

Ashley H. and Merolyn



Same	Different
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They have pads on their feet that help them walk nice and quiet even if they are heavy.• They are herbivores• They are mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The African elephant has bigger ears.• The Asian elephant only has tusks for the male.• The African elephant has only 3 nails on his hind feet but the Asian elephant has 4.

Where do elephants live?

Jared and Cesar



Some elephants live in Asia and some elephants live in Africa. Some elephants live in grasslands and some elephants live in forests.

What do elephants eat?

Shania and Mei



Elephants eat flowers and vegetables and fruit and plants. Elephants can eat up to 300 pounds of food in one day. The name of plant-eating animals is **herbivores**. Elephants use their trunk to pick up the food and put it in their mouth.

What is an elephant's digestion system?

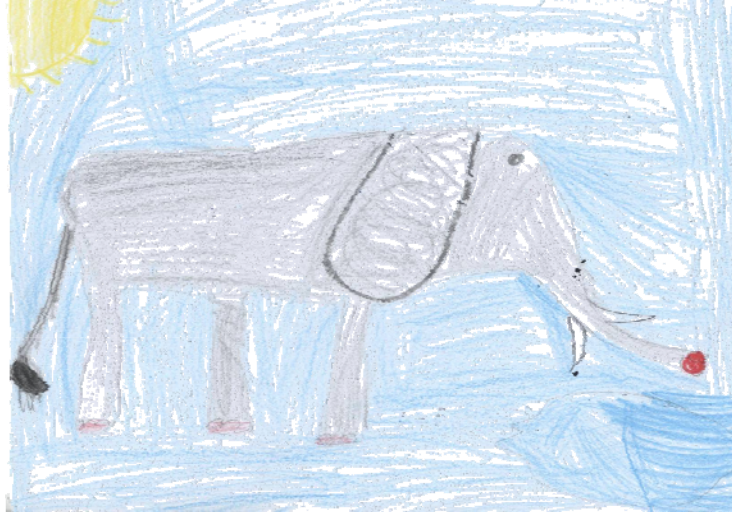
Lennin and Bryant



Elephants need to eat a lot of food so they could get enough nutrition. Most of the food does not get digested. If you look at elephant **droppings** you will see all the fruit and vegetables that the elephant did not digest.

How do elephants drink?

Esmeralda and Karoline



An elephant drinks water with its trunk.

They put their trunk in the water and pull the water up. Then they put their trunk in their mouth and that's how they drink water. They can also take a bath with the water.

How are baby elephants born?

Kiran and William



When a baby elephant is born it is called a calf. A mommy elephant holds the baby inside for 22 months. Elephants help each other to take care of the calf. Some elephants can live up to 60 years.

How do elephants stay safe?

Crystal and Ashley R.



Elephants stay safe by using their tusks to push the predators away. They step on their predators. They stay together in **herds**. They run away from their predators with their calves.

Why do people hunt elephants?

Christian and Abdul



People hunt elephants for their **tusks** which are extremely valuable. Tusks are made of ivory, which is white and smooth. People use ivory to make jewelry. The white keys on a piano used to be made of ivory but now they are made of plastic.

Riding on an elephant?

Britney and Roselynn



Riding an elephant can be dangerous. Some people always go on elephants. A long time ago, people who live in India used to ride elephants to get around and they still ride elephants today.

Is it true that elephants remember?

Rosemary, Catherine and Emily



They have big brains. It helps them survive. Elephants never forget an **injury**. They never forget.

Interesting Facts

1. Elephants have the longest **gestation** time of all the mammals.
2. Elephants can live up to 70 years.
3. Elephants are herbivores.
4. Elephants are good swimmers.
5. The Woolly Mammoth was the very first Elephant.
6. Birds and baboons go through elephant droppings to eat seeds and nuts.
7. The African elephant can stand up to 13 feet tall and finds food in the **savannah**.
8. Elephant tusks never stop growing. They grow for their whole life time.
9. The oldest female elephant is called the leader of the **herd**.
10. Female elephants have longer tusks than males.
11. More than 10,000 herds of elephants live in Kenya.
12. Baby elephants suck their trunk like human babies suck their thumb.
13. In India elephants are part of the wedding celebration. It's called '*baraat*' in Hindi.

Glossary

Droppings	poop - other words are manure and dung
Gestation	amount of time the mommy elephant is pregnant
Herbivore	they eat mostly plants
Herd	Group of elephants that travel together and eat together
Hind	In back
Injury	Something that hurts, causes pain, or is harmful
Mammal	Warm-blooded animals that feed their baby mother's milk. Humans are mammals too.
Savanna	A wide open area where grass grows.
Tusk	Special teeth that grow out of an elephant's mouth

Books and Websites

All About African Elephants

by Michael Christopher (Fountas and Pinnell) - Hinneman - 2009

Elephants: A Book for Children

by David Henry Wilson; Thames & Hudson - 2008

Elephants Can Paint Too!

by Katya Arnold (Atheneum Books for Young Readers) - New York NY

Nature's Children: Elephants

by Elin Kelsey (Grolier Educational) - Danbury CT - 1990

Whispers: the Story of a Baby Elephant

by Dereck and Beverly Joubert (Hyperion Books for Children)
New York NY - 1998

We used www.kidrex.org, a search engine for children, powered by Google and paid subscriptions to PebbleGo, www.pebblego.com, BrainPop, www.brainpop.com Encyclopedia Britannica, www.school.eb.com and NetTrekker www.nettrekker.com

During our research we came across the following websites:

- <http://animals.howstuffworks.com/mammals/elephant-memory2.htm>
- www.interestinganimals.net
- <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>
- www.savethetigerfund.org
- <http://www.andrews-elephants.com/>
- http://www.bagheera.com/inthewild/van_anim_elephant.htm