



Elephants Connect

Intermediate Lesson Plans: Suggested for Grades 3-6

THEMES

- Kindness
- Caring
- Protection
- Expressing Feelings
- Compassion
- Communication



This lesson uses paired text (fiction and nonfiction) to start great conversations about communication and kindness. Like humans, elephants use verbal and nonverbal ways to communicate with each other. This lesson focuses on how words and actions can communicate feelings and deliver a powerful message of kindness to others.

PART 1: Fiction

Pg. 2



Mud Bath

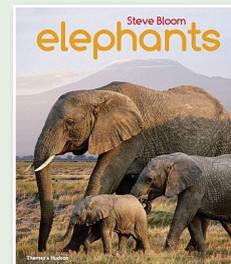
by Amy Kesler

8.5" X 11"
Black & white
Ideal for individual student use

Printable included on page 6.

PART 2: Non-Fiction

Pg. 4

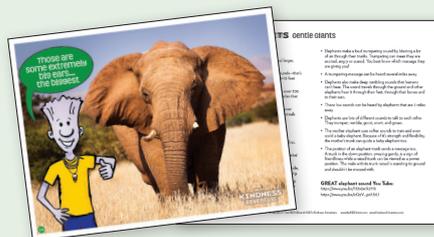


Elephants
by Steve Bloom



Mission: Elephant Rescue
by National Geographic Kids

PART 2: Non-Fiction Download—Elephant Fact Cards 2



Enhance your lesson with more downloadable resources from Kindness Adventure.

Check our NED's Elephant Fact Cards to learn more interesting facts about elephants! This set of three cards will provide you with everything you need to know for the non-fiction part of this lesson.

www.KindnessAdventure.com/Resources.html



Caring is Cool Buttons

These cheerful buttons remind students that it is COOL to be kind, compassionate and CARING towards others.

Each button is 1-3/4" Diameter
Classroom Pack of 30 = \$19.00
School Pack of 150 = \$80.00

Available on www.ShopNED.com



Elephants Connect

PART 1: Fiction

Before Reading

1. Do elephants take baths? How is it the same or different from your bath?

Answers will vary.

 PRINTABLE: Pg. 6



Read: *Mud Bath* by Amy Kesler

After Reading

NOTE TO TEACHER: Several of these questions will ask kids to share what they think they know about elephant facts.. They might not know the correct response. Allow kids the opportunity to guess and share wild answers. NED's paired nonfiction lesson "Elephants Connect" will provide the facts to confirm their responses as true or not!

1. Do you think elephants like to bathe in water or mud? Do elephants like water? Can elephants float and swim?
2. Look at the poem illustration, why does the elephant bathe in mud and then cover itself with dust?
3. Why do gray elephants often look like they are chocolate brown or red?
4. What 3 sounds did the elephants make in the poem? Why were there different sounds? What do you think the elephant trying to say with each different sound?
TRUMPET: excited, happy
RUMBLE RUUUM: content, soothing, relaxing.
ROAR: danger, warning

Activity

Listen to Elephants

Sound of the African Bushveld, Elephants - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hjx-S-6U9k0>

5. Elephants often communicate in "soundless" ways. For example, they will kneel down to invite another elephant to play. What are some soundless ways that you could invite someone to play or be with you? Answers will vary.
6. Do you think elephants really cares if someone watches them bathe? Probably not, but they are protective. Why do you think the elephants wanted the safari jeep to go away? They want to keep their family safe – just like human families. The mom elephants protect their children just like human moms and dads.
7. What did the mom elephant do to protect or take care of her baby? Why did that work? How are elephant families and human families alike? Answers will vary.



Elephants Connect

PART 1: Fiction, Continued

Activity

Elephant Research

Consider having students work on research projects to learn more about elephants. What behaviors and habits do kids share with an elephant?

Writing Activities

 PRINTABLE: Pg. 7

Connecting My Feelings with Actions. Write about your feelings and actions. When you feel a certain way, what do you do? What do you say? What do you look like?

 PRINTABLE: Pg. 8

Showing Compassion and Care for Others. How do you respond to others? Complete the chart by filling in your actions and other non-verbal responses.



Elephants Connect

PART 2: Non-Fiction

 PRINTABLE: SET 3



NED's Elephant Fact Cards:
SET3
KindnessAdventure.com/
Resources.html

- 3.1 Water is an Elephant's friend
- 3.2 A Dirt Bath
- 3.3 Gentle Giants

 PRINTABLE: Pg. 9

Read Non-Fiction Text:

Elephants, by Steve Bloom: pages 16-23, 40-43;

-or-

MISSION: Elephant Rescue, by National Geographic Kids: pages 50-51, 59, 71

After Reading:

1. How do you use your voice to show your feelings?

Brainstorm a list of "feeling words". Sort the words into categories and label them.

2. Just like people, Elephants make different sounds when they are feeling different emotions. Check it out!

ACTIVITY/AUDIO DOWNLOAD: Listen to audio of elephant sounds. **What do you think the elephant is trying to say with each sound?**

ACTIVITY: Make your best elephant sound. **What are you trying to communicate?**

3. Communication can sometimes be non-verbal. Explain and discuss. **What are some ways that you communicate kindness (or unkindness) through non-verbal ways?**

4. Discuss the different meanings of the words "care".

- *To care for* – meet needs, offer protection
- *To have a care* – a worry, anxiety or concern
- *To show care* – be concerned for

How can we be more 'caring' at our school?

5. Elephants are often called "gentle giants". What does that mean? Even if you are not big in size, how can you be a gentle giant at your school? Answers will vary

Writing Prompts:

Choose 1 and write a paragraph or 2 to explain or defend the statement:

1. Humans are a lot like elephants.
2. I want to be more like an elephant.
3. I would like to be called a "gentle giant"

Activities:

I Care in 3 Ways

Are you like an Elephant?

Compare your life with an elephant. Look for similarities in physical features AND social interactions. In what ways are you both kind, caring, protective and compassionate?

 PRINTABLE: Pg. 10



Elephants Connect

PART 2: Non-Fiction, Continued

 PRINTABLE: Pg. 11

Home Connection:

Family Project!

Adopt an orphaned baby elephant from Kenya. When NED traveled to Kenya, the All For KIDZ® Kindness team adopted a baby elephant.

Learn more about *The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust* and how you can help too. You will love the information and photos that they share each month and it can become a great family activity

www.SheldrickWildlifeTrust.org

Resources:

Look for more nonfiction books and videos about elephants. Help your students learn more about how caring and kind elephants are.

Mud Bath *By Amy Kesler*

The time has come,
They've been waiting all day
Even while eating breakfast!
Even when trying to play!

The elephants know
When the trunks start to wave,
When the sun's high in the African sky
That's when the elephants bathe!

TRUMPET! TRUMPET!

Excited moms call in their babes

TRUMPET! TRUMPET!

Little elephants claim their favorite spot

TRUMPET! TRUMPET!

Move over, there's room for us all!

TRUMPET! TRUMPET!

Call grandma, she almost forgot!

RUMBLE RUUUUM

Oh this dust is so nice

RUMBLE RUUUUM

Why, I haven't seen you all day!

RUMBLE RUUUUM

How kind, I'd love a scratch!

RUMBLE RUUUUM

It's lovely to wash the stress away.

ROAR! ROAR!

Draw close baby,
something is wrong!

ROAR! ROAR!

Someone's coming,
we don't know who!

ROAR! ROAR!

I see it! What could it be?

ROAR! ROAR!

We're strong and we're brave,
stay away you!

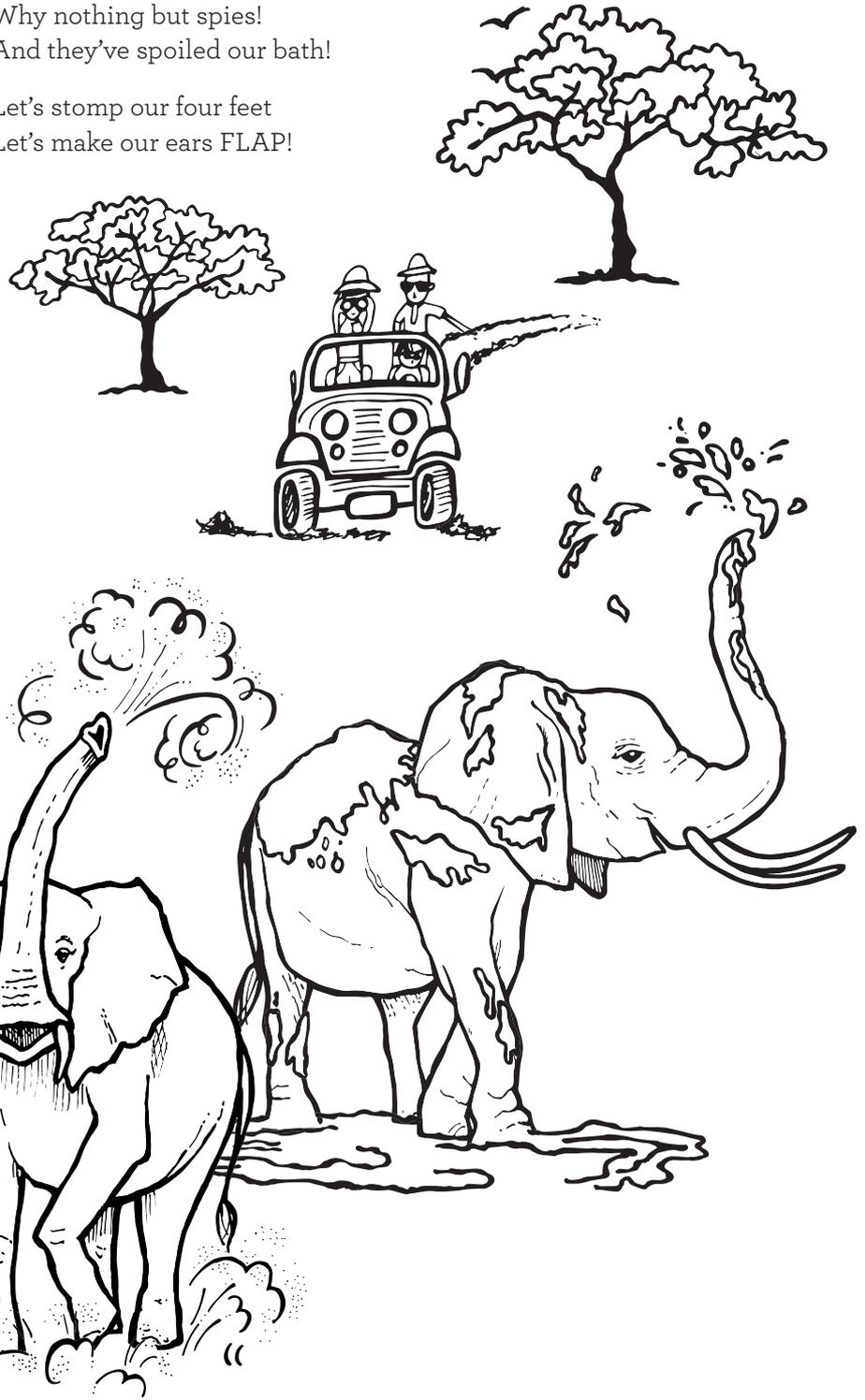
Up rolls a thing, a big metal thing.
It has wheels for feet
It roars and makes noise
Inside are more things,
with cameras and hats.

Why nothing but spies!
And they've spoiled our bath!

Let's stomp our four feet

Let's make our ears FLAP!

We'll run off these creeps
For the scare that they gave;
They should know it's impolite
To watch someone else bathe!





My Feelings

Name _____

Connecting feelings with actions. Complete these sentences and then write 2 more of your own choice.

1. When I feel happy, I _____

2. When I feel upset, I _____

3. When I feel discouraged, I _____

4. When I feel satisfied, I _____

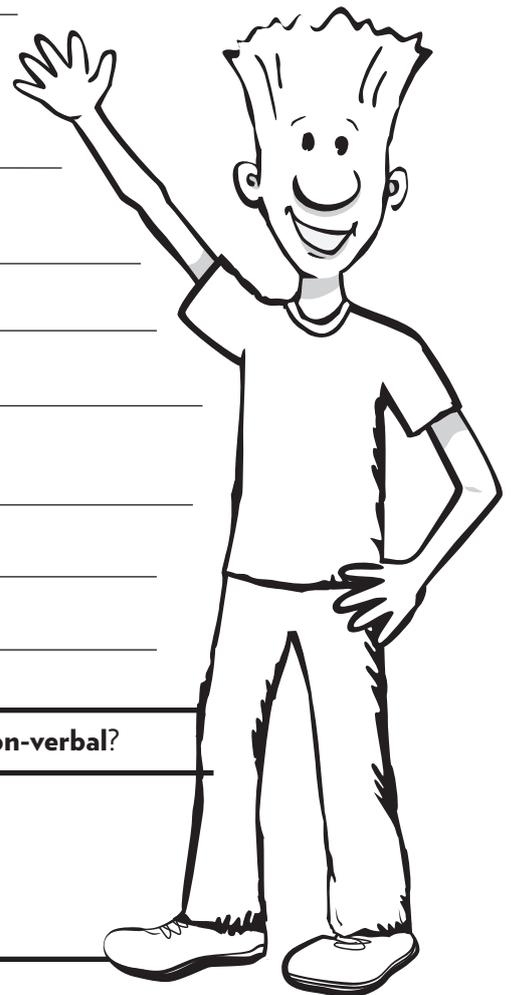
5. When I feel _____

6. When I feel _____

Go back through your list – which responses are **verbal**? Which are **non-verbal**?

VERBAL

NON-VERBAL





Feeling Words.

Name _____

Make a list of 20 feeling sound words. When might you make that sound? Sort some of your feeling words into different boxes. Make 2 new boxes with your choice of feelings.

List Feeling Words:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

When I am SCARED, I...

When I am EXCITED, I...

When I am ANGRY, I...

When I am HAPPY, I...

When I am CONFUSED, I...

When I am NERVOUS, I...

When I am _____,
I...

When I am _____, I...



I Care in 3 Ways.

Name _____

How do you show you care? Add 3 examples with ideas for each way.

1

To care for:
meet needs, offer protection

2

To Have A care:
a worry, anxiety or concern

3

To show care:
be concerned about someone or something





Adopting an Elephant

On a trip to Kenya in 2016, the All for KIDZ Kindness Adventure team adopted a baby elephant at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust Elephant Orphanage. We weren't there 2 minutes before we all fell in love with all the baby elephants that we saw.

But one in particular captured our hearts in a way that inspired us to act with kindness. She was about 2-1/2 years old and loved to run and frolic with the other baby elephants. She was a happy elephant that day, but her story is one of great sadness.

Many of the elephants at the orphanage were rescued from places like Maasai Mara, Kenya where our team goes on safari and has seen herds of wild elephants. The elephants are a safari favorite and every herd had baby elephants.



A baby and it's herd

But sometimes bad things happen – mom elephants get injured or killed by poachers or babies can get stuck in mud holes and separated from the herd. The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust rescues the babies and helps them to survive those crucial early years. Without the special milk fed to the babies for their first 4 years, they would not survive. And, just like humans, baby elephants are traumatized by events that separate them from their mom and family. The keepers at the orphanage work hard to help the baby elephants feel loved and secure as well as being well fed until they can provide for themselves. Imagine how much milk a 250 pound baby needs!



Big baby bottles for big baby elephants



Visiting the Elephant Orphanage (August 2016)



Signing adoption papers

We loved seeing the baby elephants romp and run, and play with each other. They looked just like preschoolers and kindergarteners at recess with the little ones tagging along with the bigger ones. We even saw pushing and shoving-those naughty elephants!. The babies will stay at the orphanage until they are 4-6 years old and weaned from the bottles. The keepers will help them transition back to the wild but there will always be a strong bond between the babies and their keepers. After all, an elephant has a great memory and will never forget.

Start your own kindness adventure by adopting a baby elephant. It will make a great school year project and you'll get updates and photos of your elephant each month! Visit www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org to learn more.