

World of Wonder

Educational Standards and Suggested Activities

Release week July 4, 2010: Elephants

Standards

- *Current Events*: Students will compare the number of female leaders found in the news to male leaders.
- *Social Studies*: Students will debate the issue of killing wild animals for human use.
- *Language Arts*: Students will write a short story about elephants and their unique animal behavior.

Activities

1. *Use the News*: A female usually leads an elephant herd. Read the newspaper, and collect articles about human organizations led by women. You could make a quantitative comparison by collecting and comparing the number of articles about male leaders to female leaders.
2. Elephants are sometimes killed for their ivory (tusks) and skin. Many other wild animals are also killed for fur and other parts that people find valuable. Divide into small groups, and conduct a class debate about killing wild animals for human use. You could keep it specific to elephants or include all animals (pigs, cows, etc.).
3. Elephants display varied and interesting behaviors throughout their lives. Write a short story about an elephant experiencing a turning point. Story ideas might include the natural death of an old elephant as it slowly starves, a rogue male threatening a herd or people, the herd forcing a male to leave as it grows up, an elephant family helping an injured member, etc.

World of Wonder meets many state educational standards. This guide helps teachers identify standards and related activities generally intended for Grade 6, but teachers can modify activities to the appropriate grade level.