Congratulations: Welcome to Animal Care Team!

USE THESE INSTRUCTIONS WITH Wild Elephants BRAINSTORMING PACKET

Overview  Investigate the lives of elephants in the wild. How do they live? What are the most interesting facts about elephants to you? What is special about elephants? What should a circus know if they want to have elephants as performers?

why

Brainstorm pg. 1

Why?

By the end of this activity, child will:

- Investigate the lives of wild elephants
  - Learn about unique physical facts about elephants
  - What do they eat and what are their habits? Where do they live? Habitats?
- Know what is special about wild elephants
  - What do elephants eat? What do they do everyday?
  - How do elephants communicate? Are they like humans in any way?

Describe to the Circus Owner what they need to know about elephants.

- What special care do elephants need to be healthy & happy in the circus?
  - Give your opinion and suggestions for having elephants in the circus
    - List 5 unique characteristics of elephants? Do they like to play?

What?

Get Ready

Brainstorm pg. 2

- Explore resources on elephants: library, books, teachers, web quest, YouTube.
- Make a list of what elephants do in the wild.
- What makes elephants special?
- What should a circus know if it is considering having circus elephants?
- Write (or dictate) a draft of your report make a visual: Dear Circus Owner . . .
- Make your own drawing of an elephant being fed its favorite food or playing
- Revise and make final version with the facts, your opinion, and suggestions for the future

TIME ESTIMATE

Min. 2 – 3 hrs.

MATERIALS

- Elephant information on web or in books
- Paper, printer, etc.
- Art materials. Crayons, markers, paints,
My Multiple Intelligences engaged

- **Logical** – logical investigation; gather data; Use reasoning in letter that is logical, practical with arguments supported with evidence
- **Naturalist** – understand the physical and mental and social needs of elephants
- **Interpersonal** – show awareness of the circus owner’s views and needs.
- **Intrapersonal** – what is your personal opinion about elephants being in the circus?
- **Linguistic** – word choice, expression, grammar, elements of a letter
- **Spatial** – visual organization of information (data) or illustration of important idea

**Preparation**

- Search for information about elephants in the wild.
- Review the Brainstorming Packet.
- Think about what you most like about elephants and wonder about.

**Project Plan**

**Get Ready!** Read letter from the circus owner of Cats & Dogs Spectacular. Review the Brainstorming Packet for Wild Elephants.

**Step 1.** Investigate wild elephants and their lives. Where do they live? What do they eat? Drink? How do they communicate?

**Step 2.** Once your research is done, go over your notes to answer the following question: what does a circus need to know about elephants in order to best include them as circus performers?

**Step 3.** Make a visual graph or mind map to describe/illustrate your answer. Example: make a graph for the animal care team showing the kind and quantity of food one elephant needs every day.
Step 4. Write and/or record the special characteristics you found and present your visuals. How do these facts help a circus to create the best type of environment and life conditions for circus elephants?

Follow up and Extensions: What is your opinion about elephants in the circus? Is there an educational value to having elephant circus acts?

Interesting and Important Facts!

Because this is a serious topic, it might not be a good idea to add anything fun. You might be able to include powerful images or illustrations or stories to show the most important information and ideas about elephant care.

FINAL Reflections

The parent should not provide an evaluation of the child’s project but instead discuss the following questions:

What did you do?

● What stands out for you about this activity?

● What surprises you?

● What would you do differently, if you were to do it again?

● What would you like to do next?
Resources

Websites on wild elephants

IN THE WILD
https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/elephant - World Wildlife Fund
https://www.savetheelephants.org/about-elephants-2-3-2/importance-of-elephants/ - Why elephants are important

IN CAPTIVITY
https://www.stlzoo.org/animals/abouttheanimals/mammals/asianelephant/helpingelephantsinthewild - Zoos care about elephants
https://www.worldanimalprotection.us/blogs/facts-about-elephants - 7 Facts About Elephants and Why They Don’t Belong in Captivity

Tip: Community Connections. Is there anyone in your family, neighborhood or community child can talk with about juggling?

Class Equivalents / Main Skills

Language Arts (persuasive language, grammar, sentence structure, coherence)

Science:

- Gather relevant information (CCSS.W8)

Key Science Skills

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.1** Cite specific evidence to support analysis of science & technical texts.

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.2** Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RST.6-8.3** Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks.
Letter from Dogs & Cats Spectacular Circus Owner

Welcome!
You have been selected to be a member of the Animal Care Team (ACT). This Team has the very important job of making sure that all animals are well cared for as the circus travels around the country.

Since the beginning this circus has only had dogs and cats as its featured animal performers. Many people have suggested that we add more interesting animals to the show to build our audience. This is important because ticket sales are falling. We need to add something exciting to the program!

What should we know about the lives of wild elephants?

Your first assignment as an ACT member is to investiate if it would be a good idea to adopt some elephants. Find out everything you can about the lives of wild elephants. We know they are special but how are they special? What do they eat? What are their habits? How do they communicate?

Of course, our main priority is that the elephants will be well cared for and happy as part of our circus family. Some people believe that there should be NO wild animals in the circus. Other people think the circus is great because they get to see wild animals that they’d never see in everyday life. They believe the circus provides an educational opportunity for the public to get to know more about these wonderful animals that share planet earth with us.
We need to you teach us about wild elephants. We need some new acts in our show to keep the audience happy and excited to come to the circus, but we don’t want to take on elephants if it is not the right thing for them.

First, investigate what elephants need to be healthy and happy and what a circus like us needs to keep in mind.

Let us know what you suggest that we do about elephants (or any other wild animal act). We look forward to hearing what you think!

Sincerely, Owner, Dogs and Cats Spectacular Circus

Your 1st Mission

1- How do elephants live in the wild? What makes them special?

2- What do elephants do in their everyday lives? What do they eat?

3- How do elephants communicate? Are they like humans in any way?

4- What should the circus keep in mind about the needs of elephants?

5- What do you think about having elephants in the circus?