

Elephantastic!

Key Stage 1

Summary

Pupils find out about friendship and acceptance through the story of Elmer and the behaviour of real elephants. They will use maths, design and creative skills through a series of individual and team challenges and share their ideas orally and in writing if appropriate. Threaded through the session is a recognition of what makes each of us unique.

Pupils will be able to visit the special exhibition *Elmer and Friends: The Colourful World of David McKee* to discover more of David McKee's characters.

Workshop Content

Session 1: The Real Elmer (Museum Tutor led)

- An introduction exploring what the children know about the characters in Elmer by David McKee
- Elephant Empathy – do elephants talk like us? Discover the language of elephants and how they communicate.
- Carousel of activities:
 - Elephant maths with mirrors – investigate symmetry and repeating images. Can you make elephant friends for Elmer to play with?
 - Trunk talk – work together to build Elmer's trunk and plot a simple elephant tale to share and then develop back at school.
 - Ele-doodles – help Elmer draw like a real elephant would. Children's drawings in modelling dough can be taken back to school to paint and use in a class jungle picture.
 - Meet the family – work out who's who in the elephant herd and how they might sound. What do we have in common?
- Plenary to share noise words and elephant facts.

Session 2: Celebrating Elmer Day (Museum Tutor led)

- An introduction to celebrate Elmer's Day. Pupils are divided into groups and given a role in the celebration – birds, trees, elephants or giraffes.
- Pupils learn and perform their role in a simple stop/start drama.
- Elephant creations – are we as big as an elephant? Pupils complete a design challenge to make an elephant head and fix it together.

- Plenary – pupils reprise the dance for Elmer day with their elephant heads. They help magically return Elmer to his natural colourful state with colour patches showcasing their individual talents.

Galleries (Teacher Led)

Visit the Museum galleries and the exciting exhibition *Elmer and Friends: The Colourful World of David McKee* on loan from Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Books. The exhibition takes you on a journey into the imagination of the creator of classic books and characters including *Elmer the Patchwork Elephant*, *Mr Benn* and *Not Now, Bernard*. Explore Elmer's jungle and, as if by magic, enter Mr Benn's costume shop or simply immerse yourself in the visual feast of original illustrations, many on display for the first time.

Optional outdoor session (Teacher Led)

Take your group outside to find out if an elephant could live in this habitat and create your own jungle den.

Learning Outcomes

- Pupils will investigate the link between the real animals and the characters in the story of Elmer, comparing and contrasting animals and their habitats.
- Pupils will write a short narrative of simple sentences, composing orally and discussing with peers, using animal vocabulary including collective nouns with adults to scribe if needed.
- Pupils will experiment with mirrors to describe the position and movement of 2D shapes (Year 1) and identify and describe line symmetry (Year 2)
- Pupils will develop their movement skills to perform a dance using simple movement patterns
- Pupils will develop design skills to make an elephant's head using a range of materials and tools

National Curriculum Links

English:

- Writing – composition: writing sentences, discussing and reading aloud (Year 1)
- Writing – composition: writing narratives based on real events (Year 2)
- Spoken language – building vocabulary and listening to peers and adults

Maths:

- Geometry – properties of shapes, position and direction

Science:

- Animals, including humans – identify common animals, describe and compare their structure
- Living things and their habitats – identifying habitats and how they provide for animals and animals obtain their food (Year 2)

Design & Technology:

- Design and make, communicating ideas and selecting tools and materials

Physical education:

- Perform dances using simple movement patterns

Equipment**Equipment Provided by the Museum**

Clipboards

Equipment to be Brought by the School

Pencils

Follow-up Ideas

- Visit <https://www.elmer.co.uk/activities/> for simple Elmer themed colouring and craft
- Find out more about real elephants and where they live. What challenges do they face?
- Imagine Elmer visited your school and the adventures he would get up to in your classroom. Create a storyboard about his day with you.
- Imagine you visited the Mr Benn's fancy dress shop. Who would you be and where would you go?

Large print versions of all teachers' and pupils' material are available. Please ask for these when booking.

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