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W ELEPHANTS are **WRINKLY**

Integrated science activities for young children

by Susan Conklin Thompson, Ed.D

Photographs by Thomas M. Smucker and Keith Thompson

Illustrations by William Conklin, Jr.

Music by Gretchen Young



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Dedication

This book is dedicated to Keith for all his interest, enthusiasm and support.

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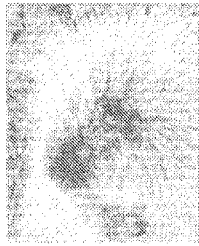
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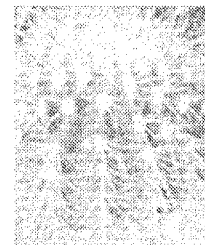
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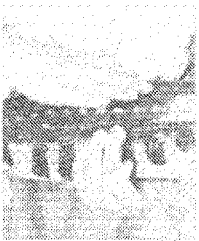
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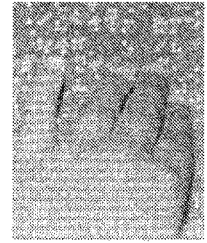
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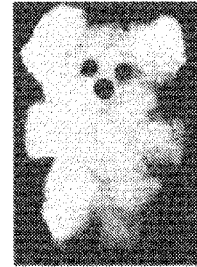
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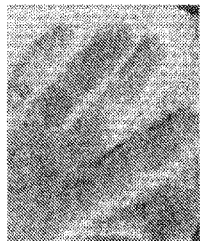
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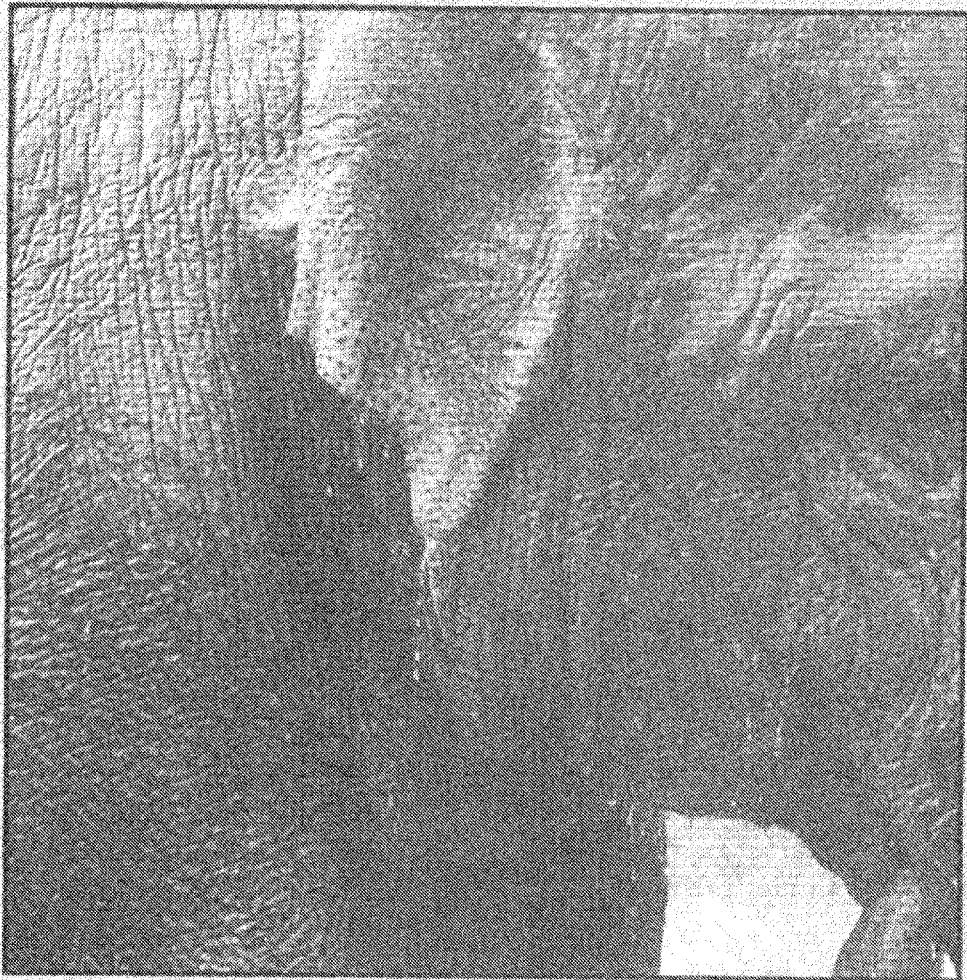
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Chapter 1

Elephants are wrinkly



Elephants are wrinkly

Wrinkled clothing

Dry cleaning & drama center

Wrinkles on faces

Fun in the sun

Land formations can be wrinkly

Elephants are wrinkly

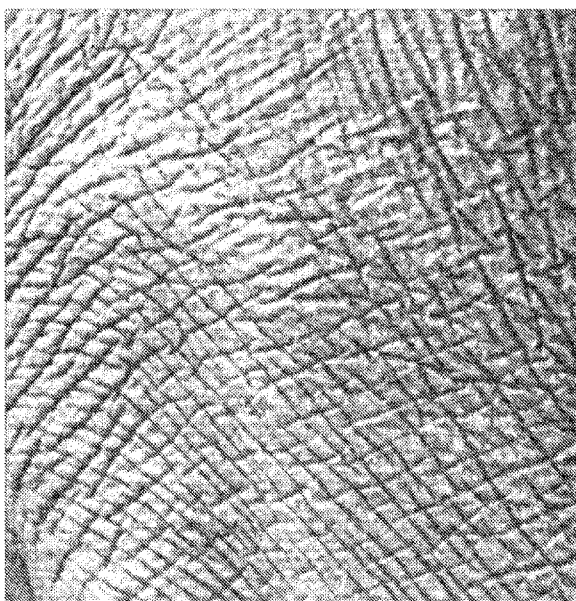
Integrated areas covered:

Science, Social Studies, Math, Language Arts, Art, and Music

Activities

1. **Wrinkly hunt** What is wrinkly? Ahead of time, place some objects that are wrinkly around the room. These could include walnuts, wrinkled fabrics, leaf lettuce, and prunes. Ask the children to look around the room to find any objects that look wrinkly. Let the children, as a group, feel and describe the wrinkly objects. They will be interested in knowing that wrinkles can be grooves in smooth surfaces or creases in skin. What other things in the environment are wrinkly?

Show the children a model and/or picture of an elephant. Ask them to tell you what they know about elephants. You can record their comments on a chart. Talk with them about how an elephant's skin is tough and wrinkly. Their hides are anywhere from 1/2- to 1-inch thick, with a layer of skin on the top. This skin is very sensitive and even a small insect can really annoy an elephant! Baby elephants are born with soft brown hair covering their body. Adult elephants still have this hair, only it has become very stiff. They have not grown any more hair, even though their bodies have grown much bigger.

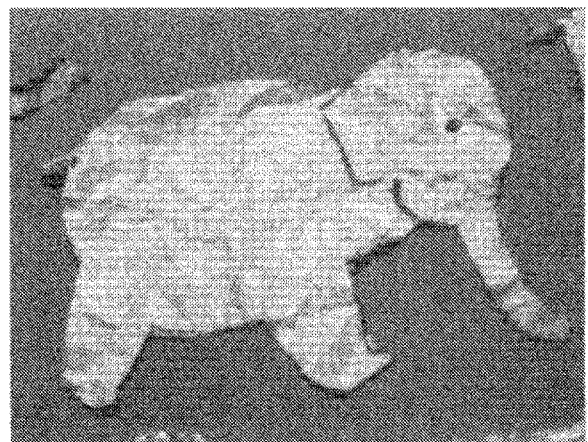


2. **Paper bag elephants** Children can each take a brown paper bag and crumple it into a small ball. Have them spread the paper flat, examining the wrinkles. The paper will be a good imitation of what an elephant's hide looks like. Let them examine the wrinkles with a magnifying glass. Each child can cut an elephant from his or her paper bag. These elephants can be displayed on the wall single file, in "herd fashion." Explain to the children that elephant herds consist of a family group that remains together for a lifetime. Small herds of ten to twenty elephants make up a family of brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, parents and grandparents. Young orphan elephants may be adopted by the herd.

The children can also brainstorm which other animals look wrinkly and draw or cut them from a paper bag.

More information about elephants

- *An elephant cannot jump, but it can run quickly—up to eighteen miles an hour.*
- *Elephants have very long, full eyelashes.*





- *Elephants are excellent swimmers.*
- *Some elephants weigh 13 or 14 thousand pounds.*
- *Elephants are vegetarians and can eat from 300 to 500 pounds of food a day.*
- *Elephants are good friends to one another and help each other when they are in trouble.*
- *Elephants can live to be 60, 70, or even 100 years old!*
- *Elephants do forget.*
- *Elephants are bluish gray but roll around in the mud and dirt for camouflage and to keep off the insects. That is why they seem to be the color of the earth in the area they live.*

Resources on elephants

Elephants, by Joe Womer

Elephant Crossing, by Toshi Yoshida

Extensions

1. **Elephant food** Take the children on a hunt for elephant food. They can collect tree leaves, bark, twigs, and grasses. Elephants also eat fruits and nuts, so have some of these available to add to what is found. Ask children to estimate how much of this mixture would make a pound of elephant food. Involve the children in weighing a pound of food and putting it into a plastic sack. Children will be amazed as they think about elephants eating between 300 and 500 bags of this food mixture a day!

2. **Song and game** Children will enjoy holding their arms in front of themselves like elephant trunks and going on an elephant walk. Teach the children the song on page 5, having them sway back and forth as they walk. They can also try "hooking trunk and tail" by each holding onto a hand in front and a hand behind.

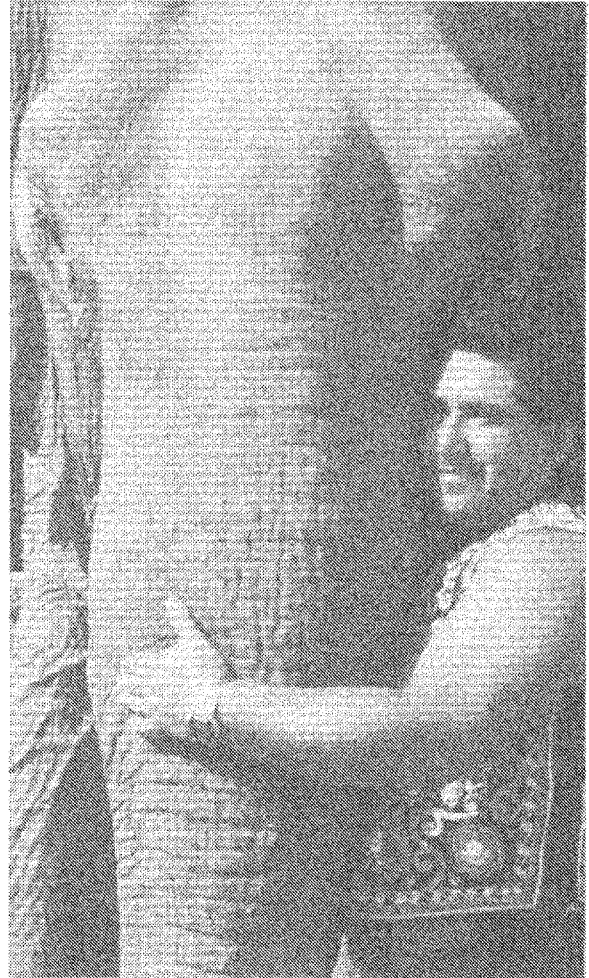


Elephants are one of the easiest animals to train in a circus. Involve children in talking about tricks elephants can perform. Explain to them that many elephant trainers come from families that have been in the circus for many generations. Ask the children to imagine they are elephant trainers in a circus. Which amazing tricks would they like to teach an elephant? They may want to illustrate the tricks on a large piece of butcher paper, creating a group mural of many elephants performing.

3. **Read a story** Read this short story to children and then involve them in the activities that follow.

Louie the Elephant Trainer

This is Louie Delmoral. He trains elephants that perform in the circus. Millions of boys and girls have seen his elephants do their tricks.



Elephant Jig



Hook a trunk, and hook a tail, Fol- low the el- e- phants
down the trail. Wrin- kly skin, a size too big. The
el- e- phants stop and do a jig. Grab back on and
keep in line; El- e- phants in front and el- e- phants be- hind.