

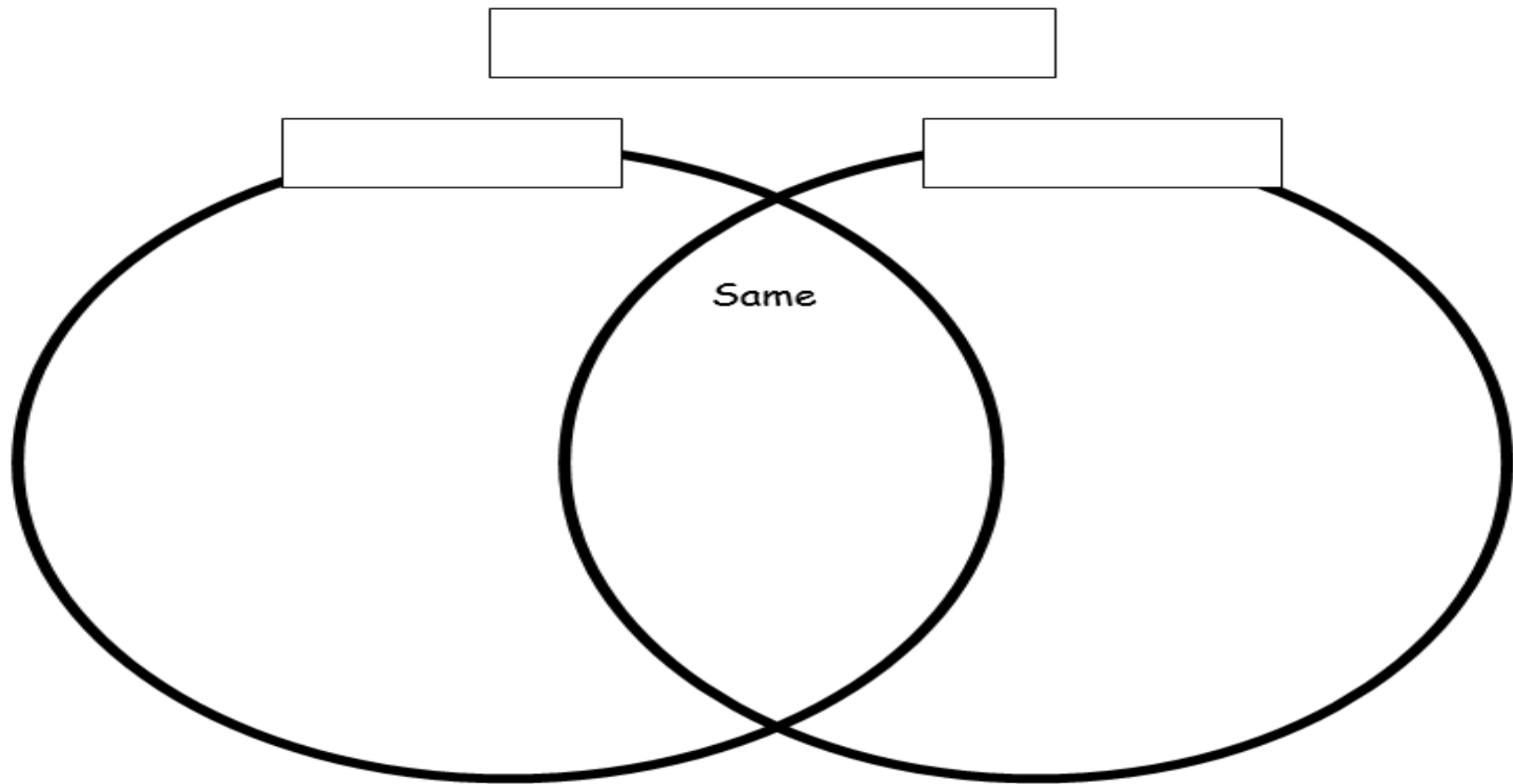
ARTSmart: Elephants



Compare and Contrast

Use the Venn Diagram that follows to list how these elephants are different and the same.





John Steuart Curry

Born 1897, Dunavant, Kansas

Died 1946, Madison, Wisconsin

Elephants at the Circus, 1932

Photomechanical reproduction

Bequest of Kathleen G. Curry,

2002.1071

Curry spent April of 1932 traveling with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. His sketchbooks are full of drawings of elephants, clowns, and the trapeze artists, the Flying Cardonas. The massive elephants lined up for a meal of hay may have reminded Curry of the winter-eating habits of the cattle raised on his family's farm in Kansas. Ringling Bros. retired its elephants in 2016 in response to the Humane Society's campaign against cruelty to the animals.





Caroline Thorington

Born 1943, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Shanti, 2004

Lithograph

Gift of Caroline Thorington, 2017.298

Shanti means peace or calm and is a word used in Sanskrit, Hindi, and Marathi languages. Thorington's Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*), identified by its small ears, is native to India. The print is part of the series Natural History inspired by her husband's work as a curator in the mammal division of the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. Shanti lived in the nearby National Zoo.

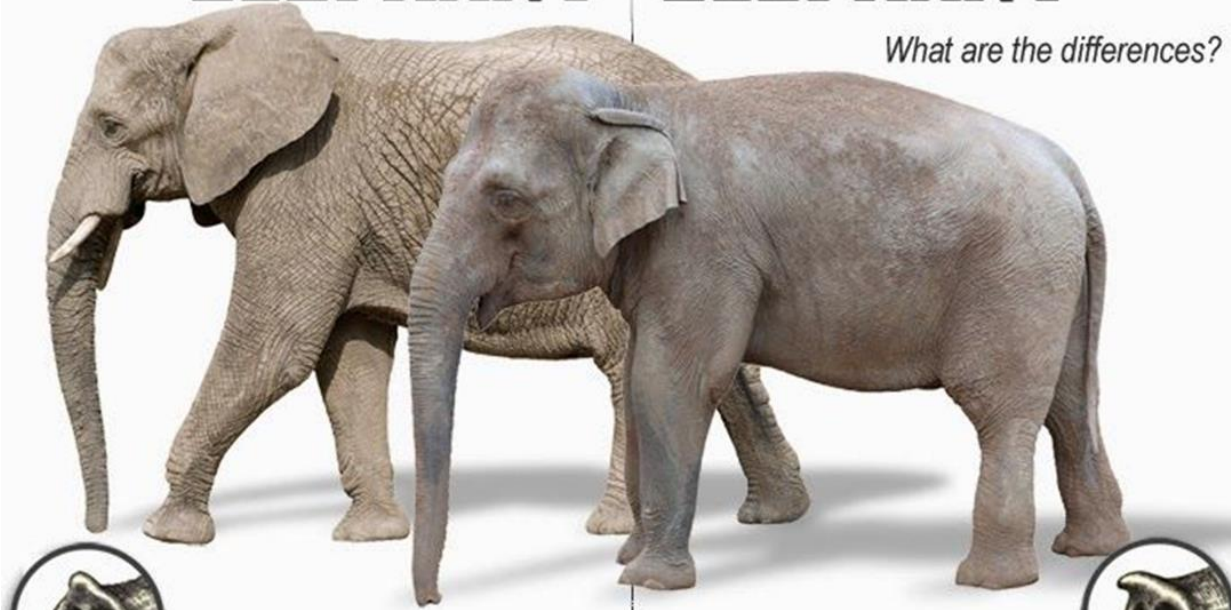
Elephant Facts

African bush elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) and forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) of sub-Saharan Africa, and the Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) of South and Southeast Asia

AFRICAN ELEPHANT

ASIAN ELEPHANT

What are the differences?



EARS: Large, "Africa-shaped" ear

TRUNK TIP: Two "fingers" for grasping

HEAD: Single dome

HEIGHT (tallest at shoulder): 9 – 13'

WEIGHT: 8,800 – 15,400 lbs.



EARS: Small, rounded ear

TRUNK TIP: One "finger" for grasping

HEAD: Twin dome

HEIGHT (tallest at back): 6.5 – 9'

WEIGHT: 6,600 – 13,200 lbs.

© THOMSON SAFARIS 2013

Types of Elephants

African Elephants



African Bush Elephant



African Forest Elephant

Asian Elephants



Indian Elephant



Borneo Pygmy Elephant



Sri Lankan Elephant



Sumatran Elephant

Animal Spot

Elephants have around 150,000 muscle units in their trunk. Their trunks are perhaps the most sensitive organ found in any mammal - Asian elephants have been seen to pick up a peanut, shell it, blow the shell out and eat the nut. Elephants use their trunks to suck up water to drink – it can contain up to 8 liters of water – but they don't actually drink through the trunk. Think of it as a giant eye dropper used to get water to their mouths. They also use their trunks as a snorkel when swimming (elephants are very good swimmers).



Elephant Parenting

Elephant mothers carry their babies for nearly two years before giving birth. Then they ensure their babies get the best food, teach their children the most useful skills and show their children how to lead the herd during hard times.

Elephant herds are matriarchal. The oldest female elephant plays a key role in controlling the social network of the group and in ensuring the survival of the family.

Female elephants help look after each other's calves. Babysitting other calves is important for elephant development. Young females learn how to look after the babies before they have their own. The survival rate of these babies increases when more females are present and willing to care for them.

Elephants stay with their parents on average, for 16 years -- just about the same amount of time that human children rely on their parents.



AN ELEPHANT NEVER FORGETS?

The elephant's temporal lobe (the area of the brain associated with memory) is larger and denser than that of people - hence the saying 'elephants never forget'.

The plight of African Elephants

Numbering three to five million in the last century, African elephant populations were severely reduced to its current levels because of hunting. In the 1980s, an estimated 100,000 elephants were killed each year and up to 80% of herds were lost in some regions. Populations of elephants—especially in southern and eastern Africa—that once showed promising signs of recovery could be at risk due to the recent surge in poaching for the illegal ivory trade.

African elephants have less room to roam than ever before as expanding human populations convert land for agriculture, settlements and developments. The elephants' range shrank from three million square miles in 1979 to just over one million square miles in 2007. Commercial logging, plantations for biofuels and extractive industries like logging and mining not only destroy habitat but also open access to remote elephant forests for poachers. Poverty, armed conflict and the displacement of people by civil conflict also add to habitat loss and fragmentation. All of these push elephants into smaller islands of protected areas and hinder elephants' freedom to roam.

As habitats contract and human populations expand, people and elephants are increasingly coming into contact with each other. Where farms border elephant habitat or cross elephant migration corridors, damage to crops and villages can become commonplace. This often leads to conflicts that elephants invariably lose. But loss of life can occur on both sides, as people may be trampled while trying to protect their livelihoods, and game guards often shoot "problem" elephants.

World Wildlife Fund

1250 24th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037



ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

The illegal demand for ivory is the biggest driver of elephant poaching. Despite a global CITES ban on international sales of ivory since 1990, tens of thousands of elephants are killed to meet a growing demand for ivory products in the Far East. Asia stands behind a steadily increasing trend in illegal ivory and there are still thriving domestic ivory markets in Africa. Limited resources combined with remote and inaccessible elephant habitats make it difficult for governments to monitor and protect elephant herds. The impacts of war and over-exploitation of natural resources often lead to increased poaching as elephants are also regarded as source of wild meat. 2011 saw the highest volume of illegal ivory seized since global records began in 1989.

African masks were created for ritual ceremonies, which connect into ancestor worship and the power of the ancestor spirits (often seen as the vital life force flowing through all living things, around which all thought and action occur: Bantu philosophy). Masks, and other ritual objects, and the ceremonies they are used in are the material manifestations of the spiritual beliefs of the people who created them. Masks were considered living objects - i.e. were animistic - and ancestor spirits and the powers of the deities were imbued on the wearer of the mask - transformed him or her.

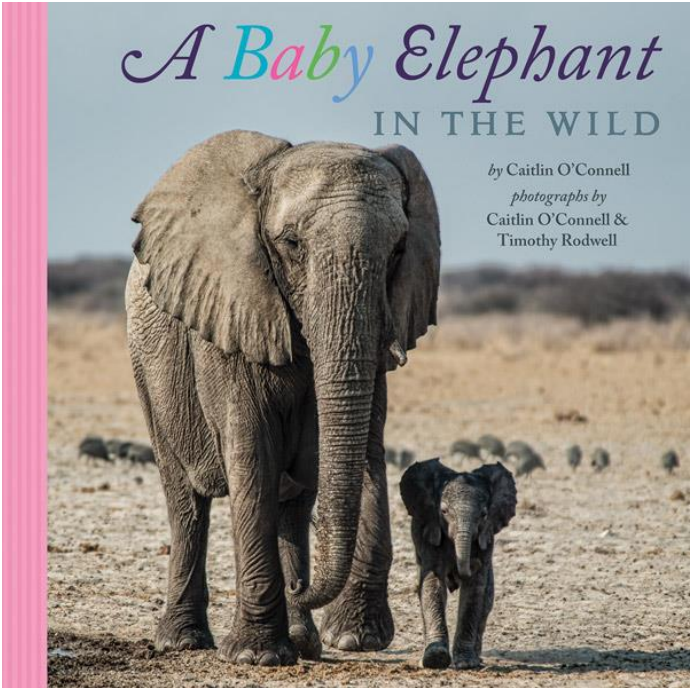
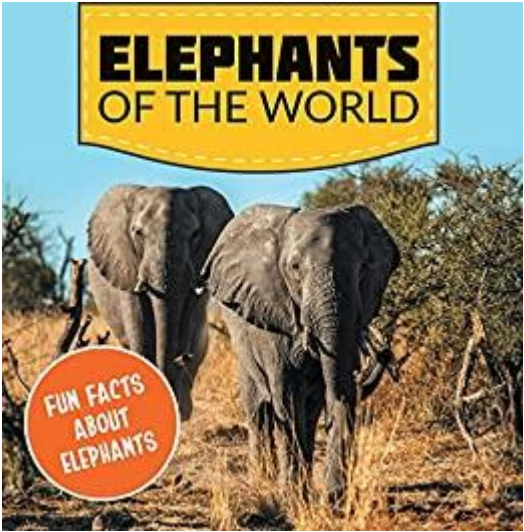
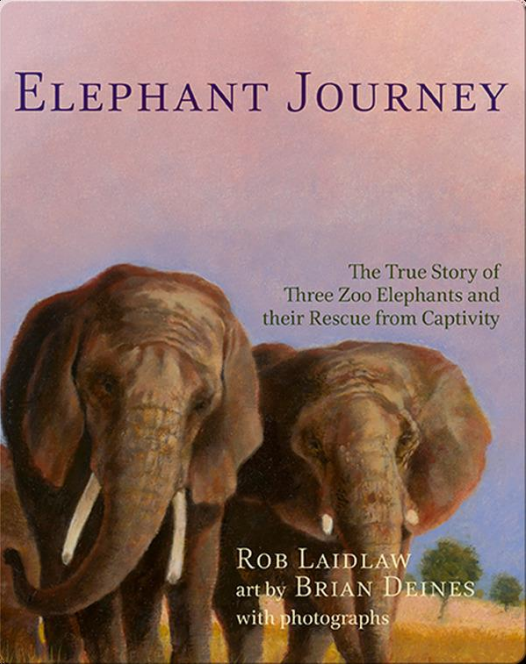
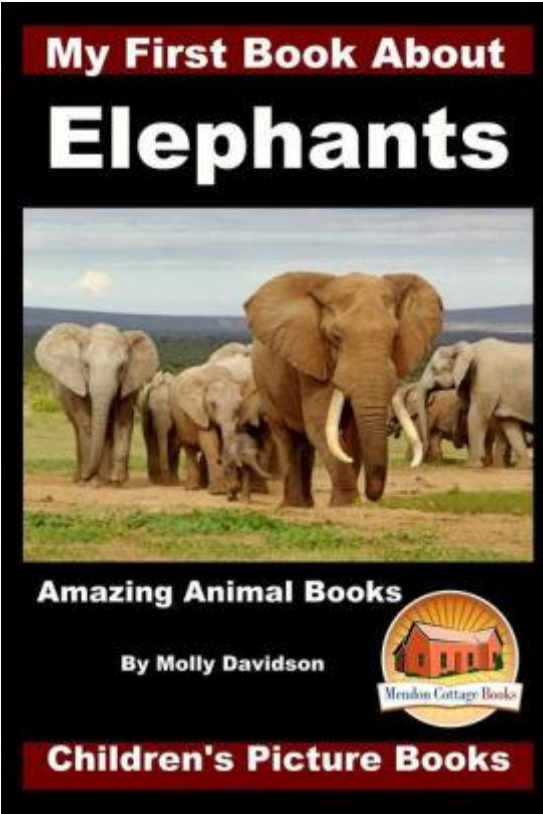
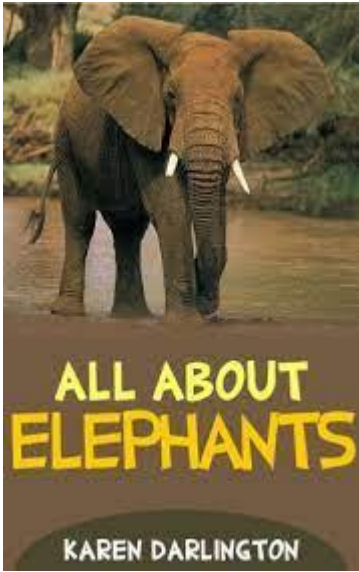
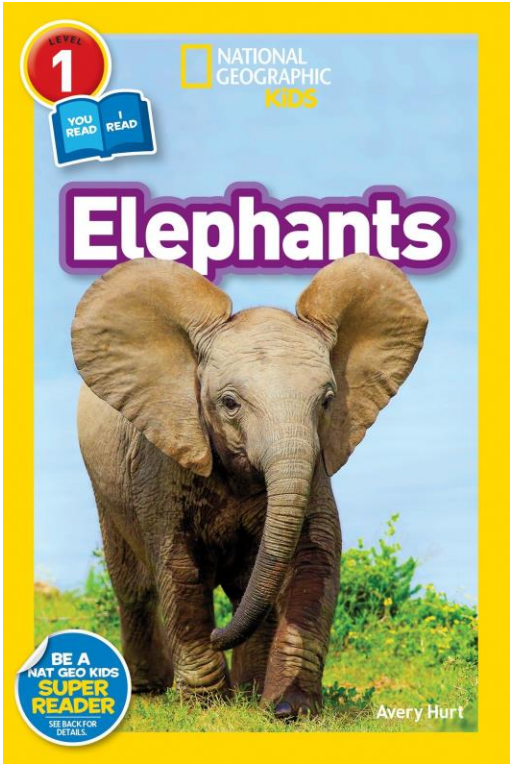
Ancestor spirits could be called upon by members of the tribes to perform tasks - ranging from helping produce a good harvest, to helping initiate youngsters into the tribe, to curing illness, to conversation with the ancestors, and funerals. Those wearing the masks maintained societal order. They were the embodiment of divine power.



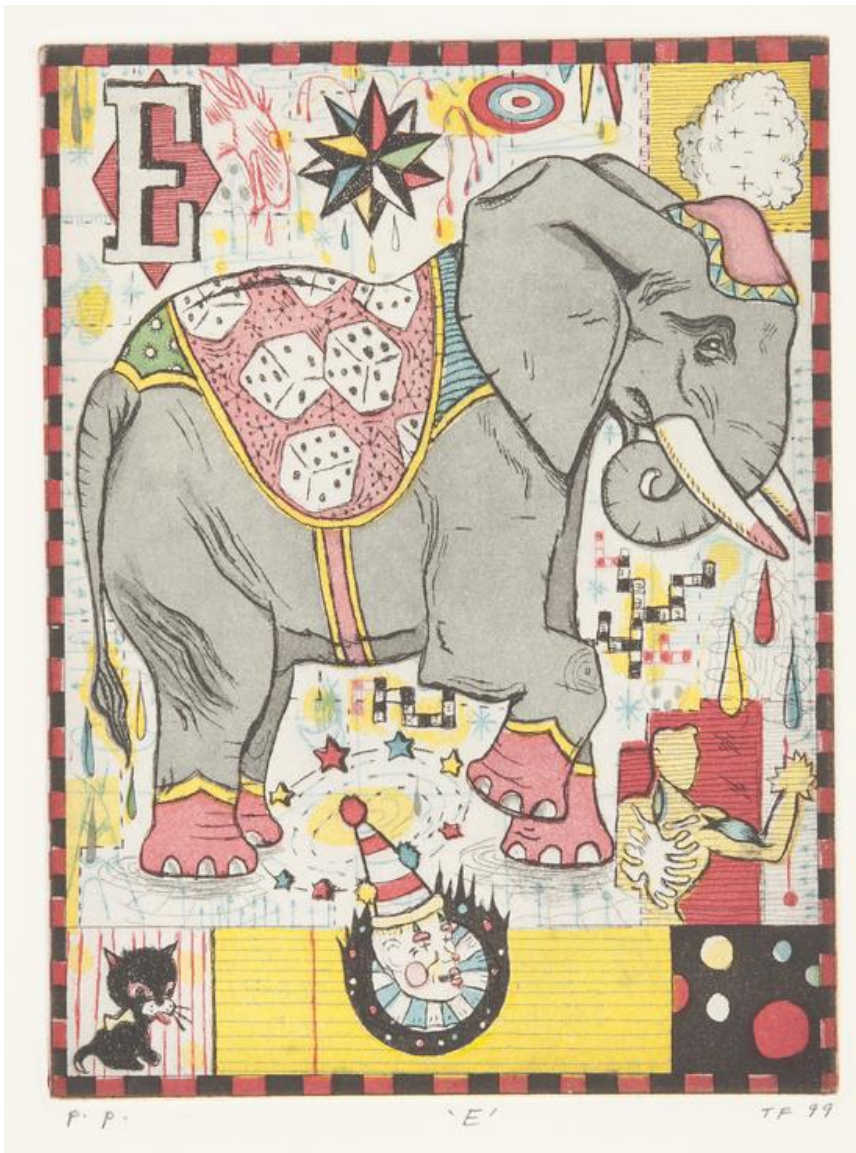
Elephants are often associated with political power in the highly stratified kingdoms of the Cameroon grasslands. Because imported beads were historically rare and costly, beadwork is also associated with high social rank, making this mask a potent symbol of power. The Bamileke masquerade is an assertive but controlled and dignified performance worthy of a royal court. The elite Kuosi masking society controls the right to own and wear elephant masks, and the society assists the *fon*, or king, as preserver and enforcer of the sociopolitical hierarchy.

Bamileke. Kuosi Society Elephant Mask, 20th century. Cloth, beads, raffia, fiber, 57 3/4 x 20 1/2 x 11 1/2". Brooklyn Museum, Purchased with funds given by Mr. and Mrs. Milton F. Rosenthal, 81.170. Creative Commons-BY (Photo: Brooklyn Museum, 81.170_detail_SL1.jpg)

Learn more about elephants



Additional Elephants from the BMA collection



Tony Fitzpatrick

E (From Max and Gaby's Alphabet), 1999

Five-color etching on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, Friends of the Beach Museum of Art purchase, 2003.48

Herschel C. Logan

The Battle Axe, mid 20th century

Woodcut block

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Peggy L. Sondergard & Samuel H. Logan, 2018.111





John Steuart Curry

Circus Elephant and Trainer, 1932

Graphite on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art,
bequest of Kathleen G. Curry, 2002.1228

John Steuart Curry

Elephants at the Circus, 1932

Colored crayon on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art,
bequest of Kathleen G. Curry, 2002.1267





John L. Doyle

Temple Elephant, 1978

Lithograph on brown paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Phillip and Linda Enegren, 2017.3pp

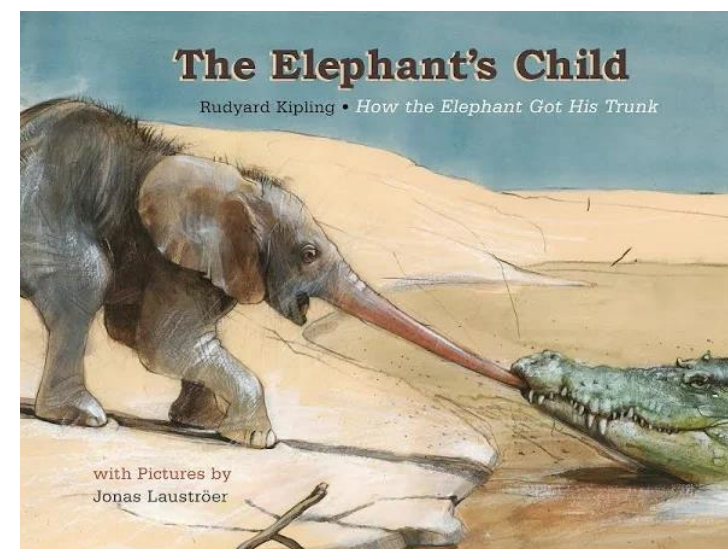
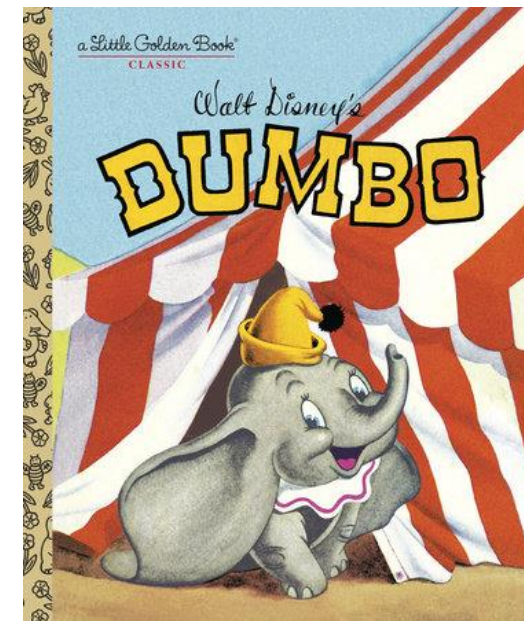
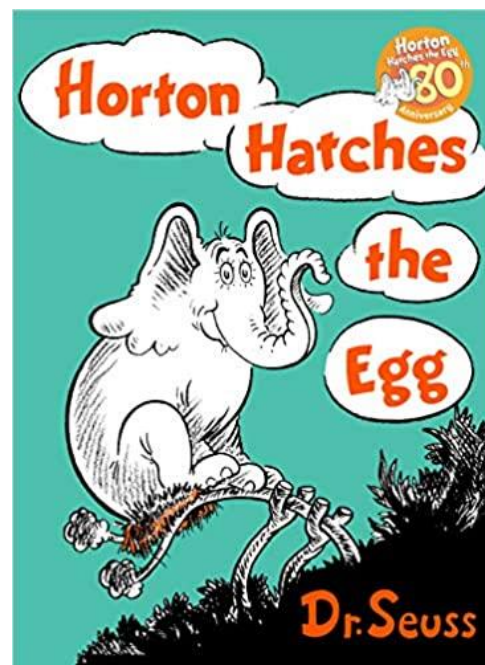
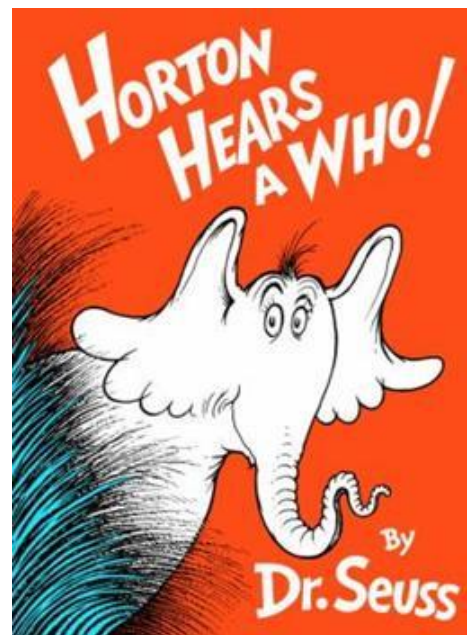
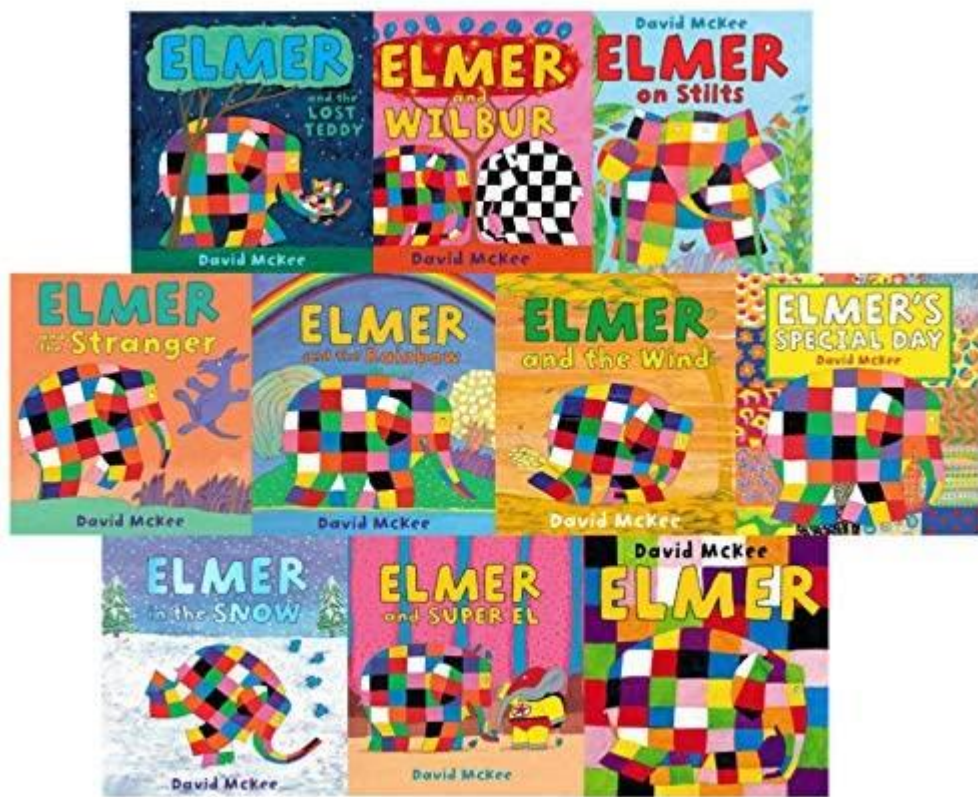
Temple Elephant, 1978

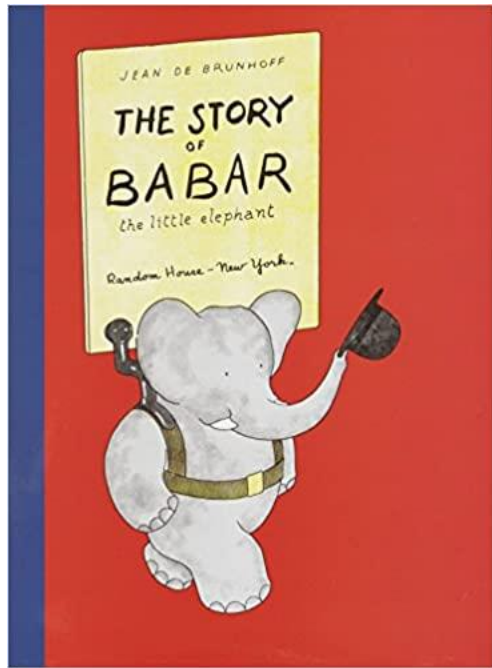
Color lithograph on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, gift of Phillip and Linda Enegren, 2017.3qq



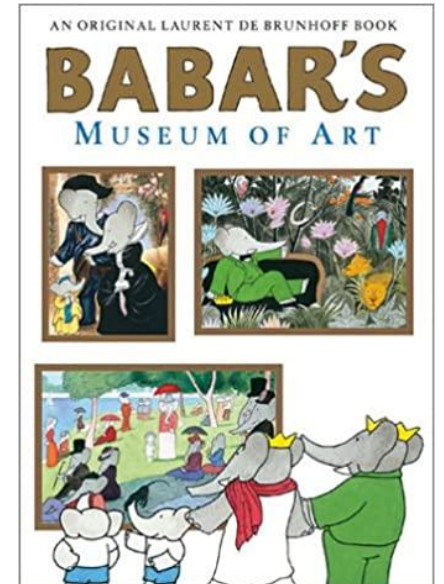
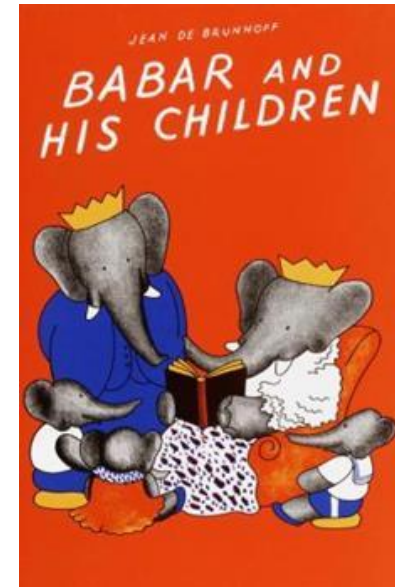
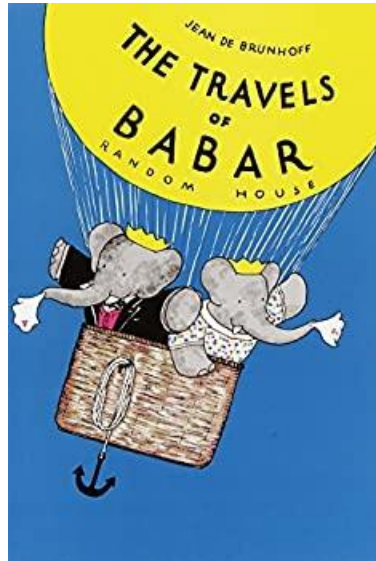
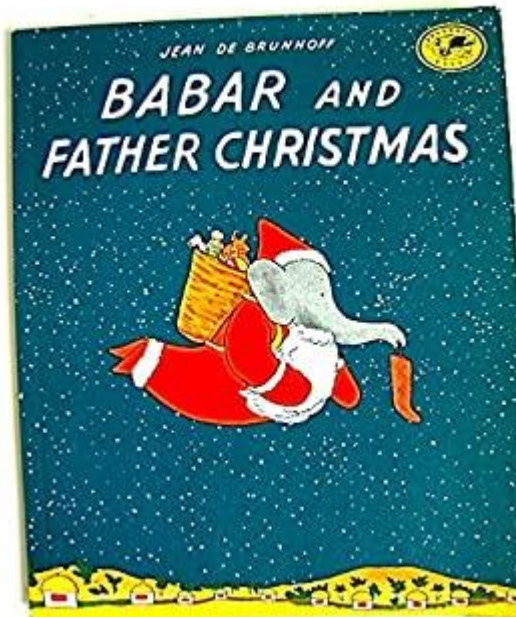
Picture Books

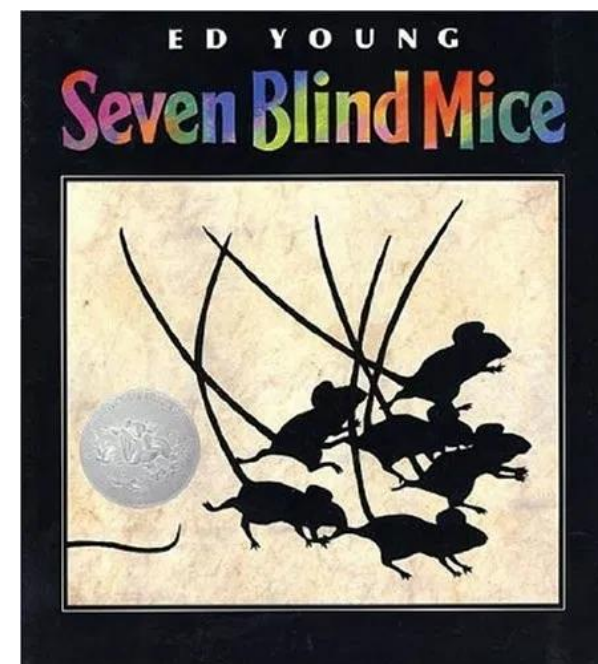
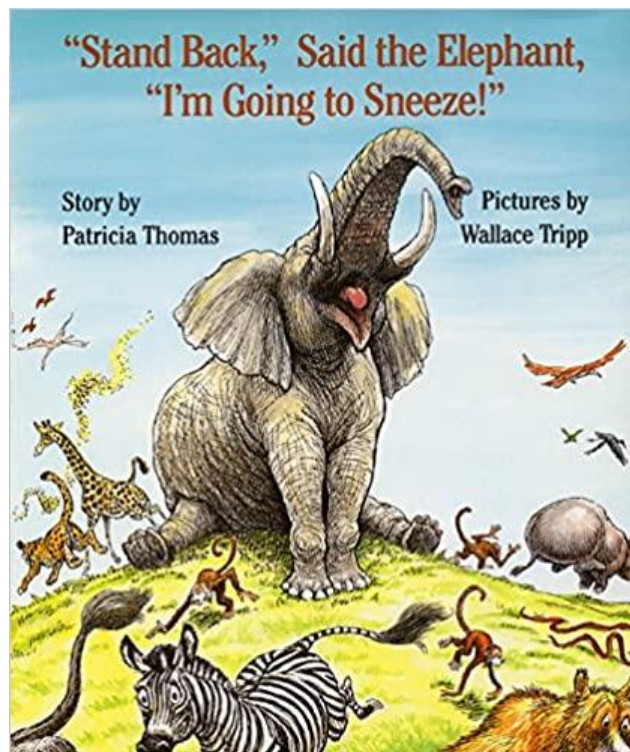
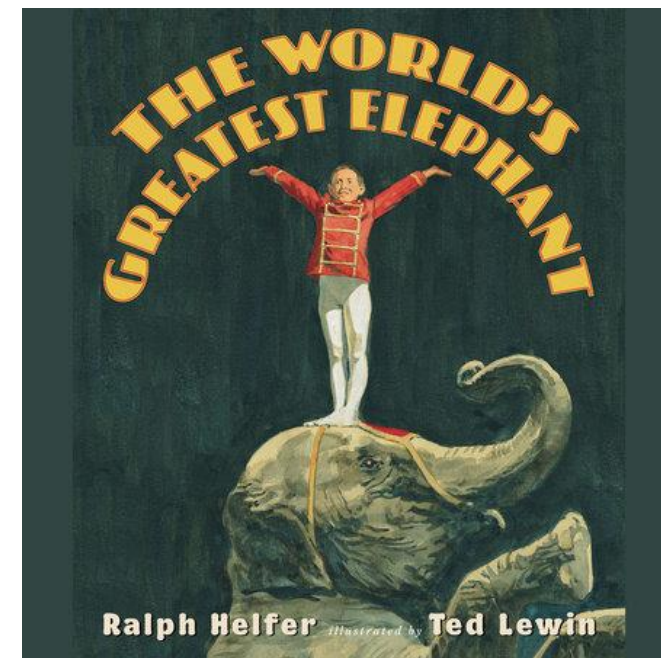
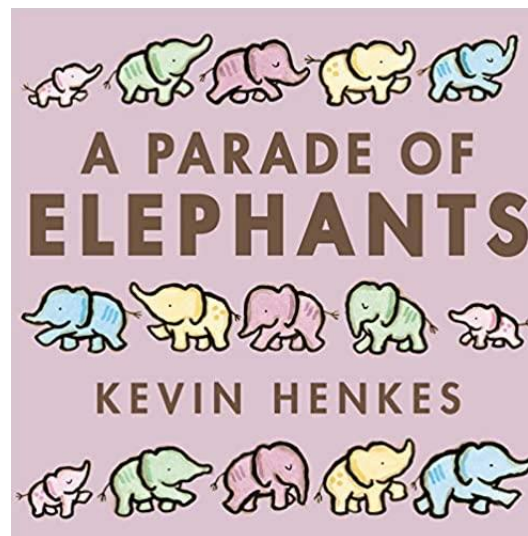
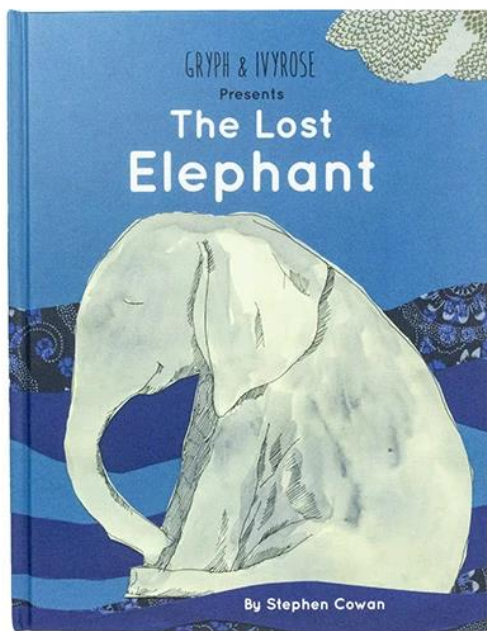


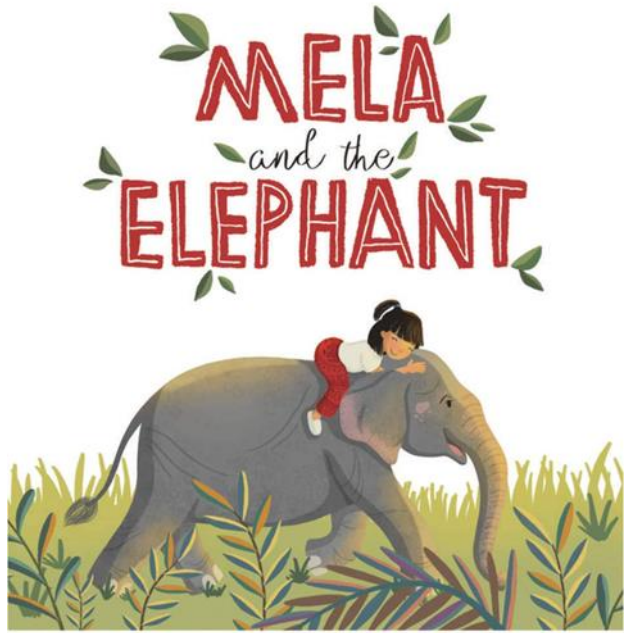


Babar

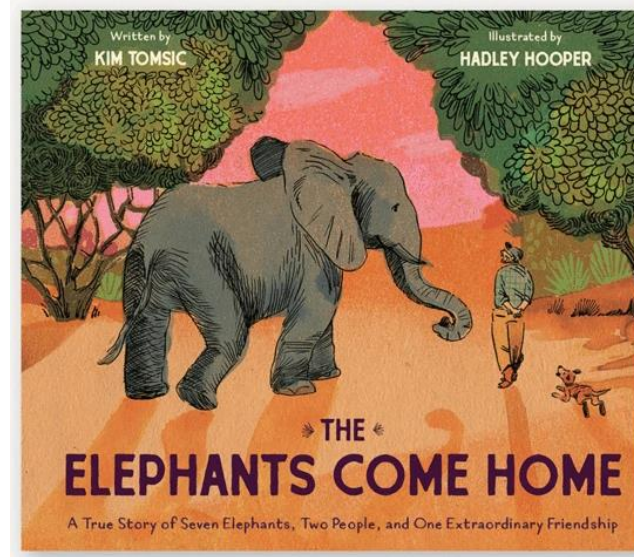
The first in the series of French children's book, *Histoire de Babar* by Jean de Brunhoff, was published in 1941. Based on a tale his wife made up for their children, the extensive series follows a baby elephant, orphaned by a hunter, to his coronation as king and the adventures of his family and friends. Jean de Brunhoff wrote and illustrated seven *Babar* books; the series was continued by his son, Laurent de Brunhoff, who published 45 more stories.





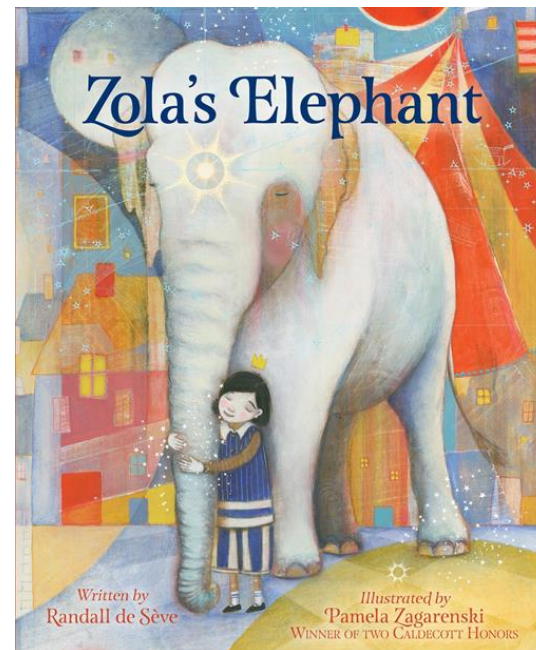
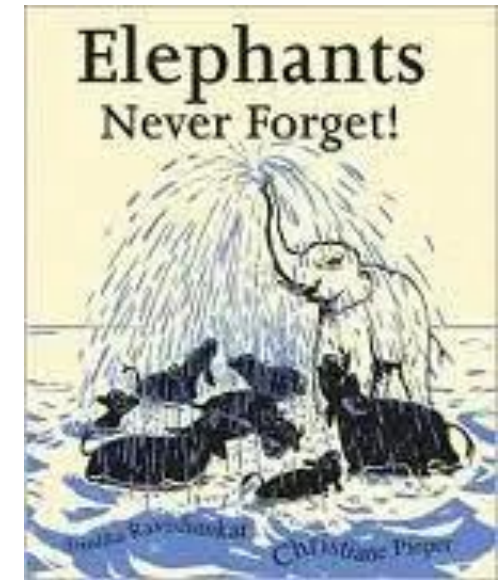


DOW PHUMIRUK AND ILLUSTRATED BY ZIYUE CHEN



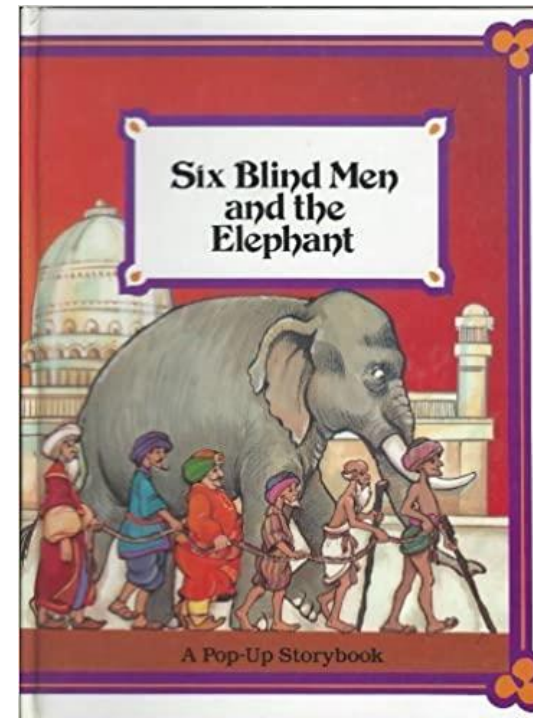
THE ELEPHANTS COME HOME

A True Story of Seven Elephants, Two People, and One Extraordinary Friendship



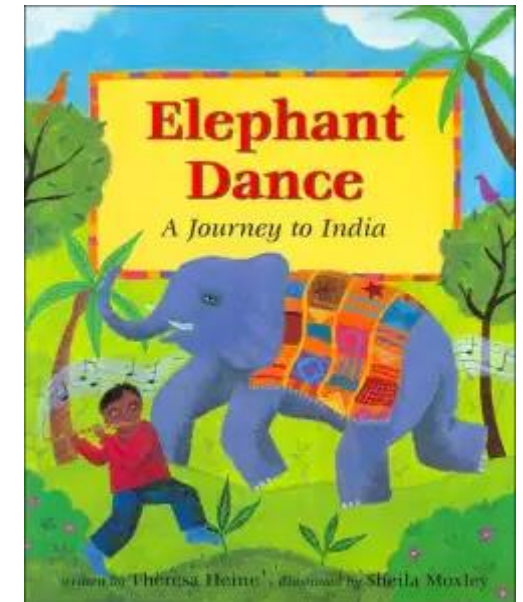
Written by
Randall de Sève

Illustrated by
Pamela Zagarenski
WINNER OF TWO CALDECOTT HONORS

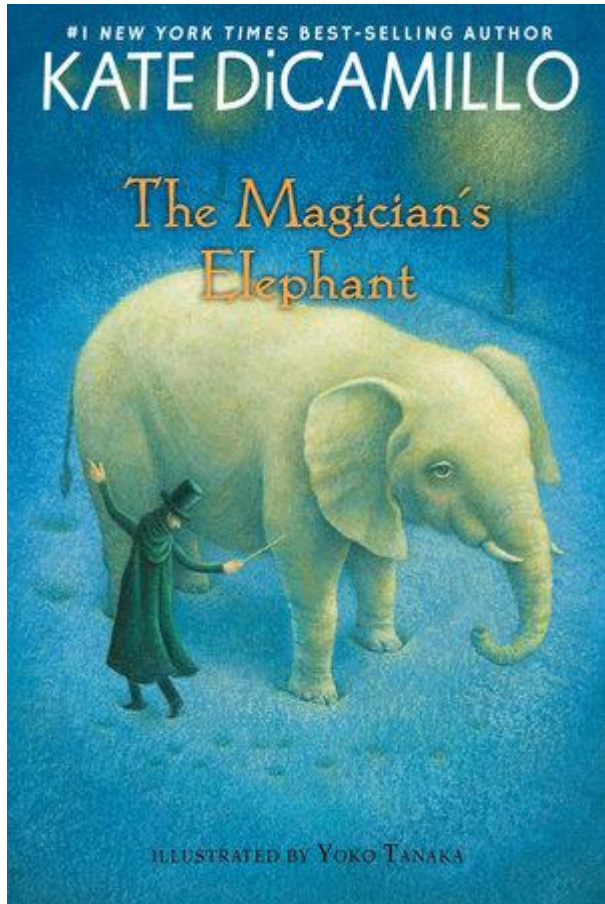


Six Blind Men and the Elephant

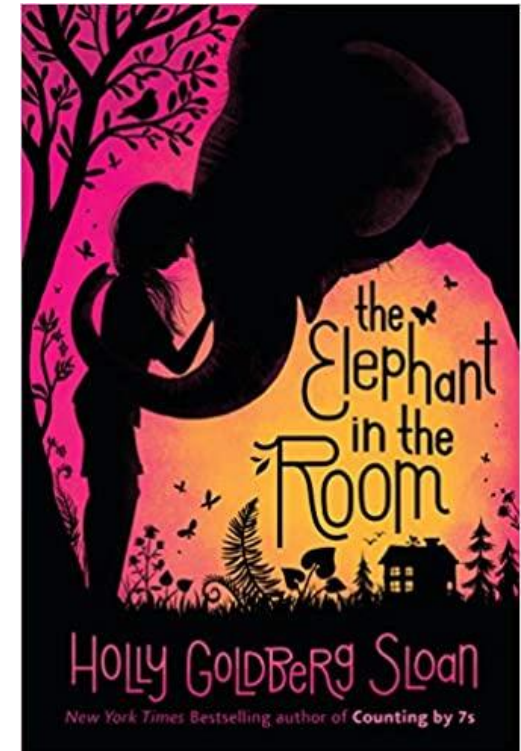
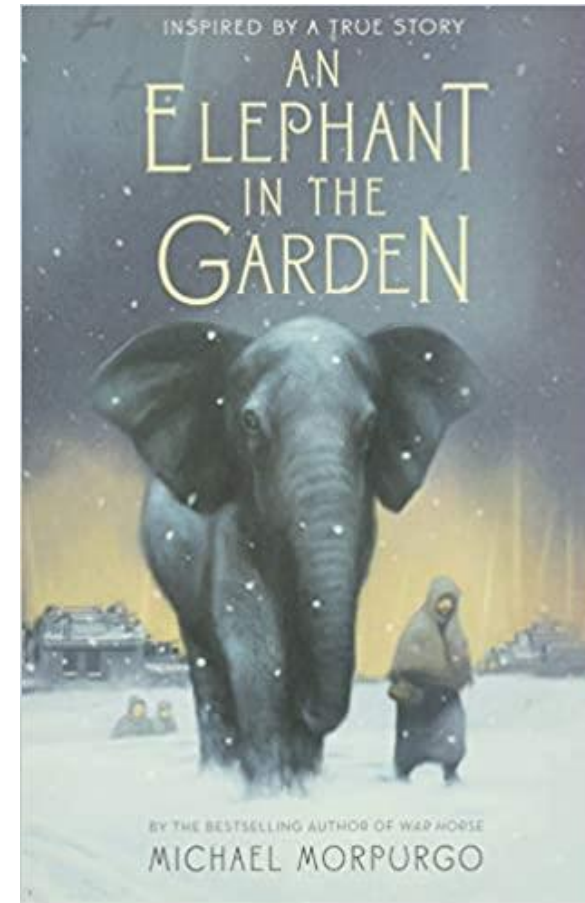
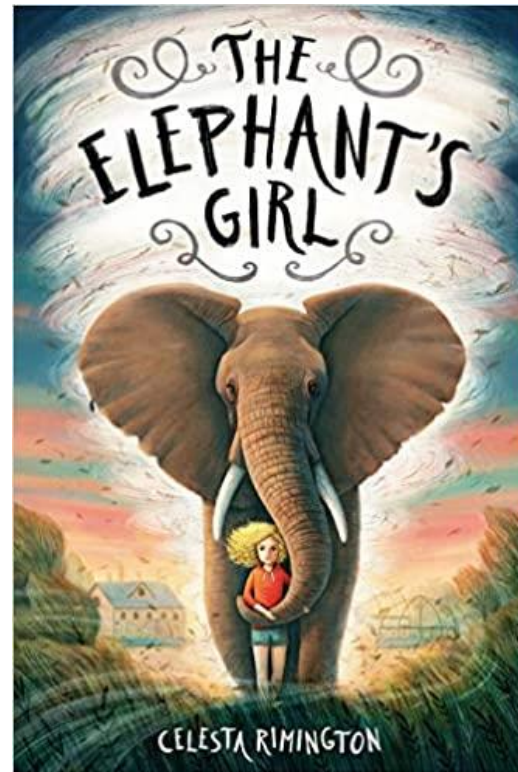
A Pop-Up Storybook



Written by Theresa Heine, Illustrated by Sheila Moxley

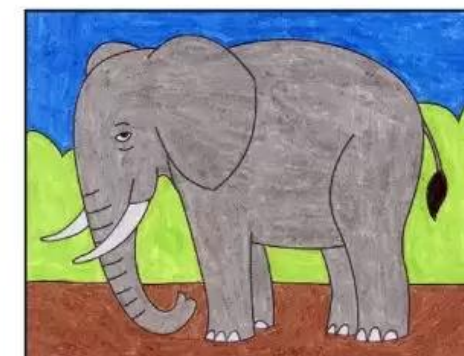
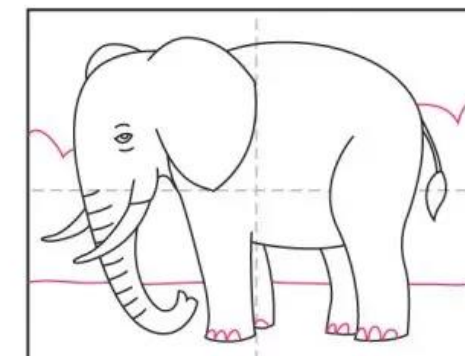
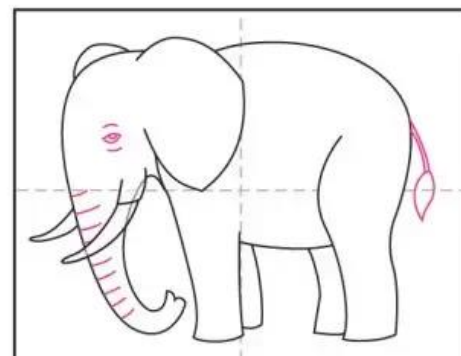
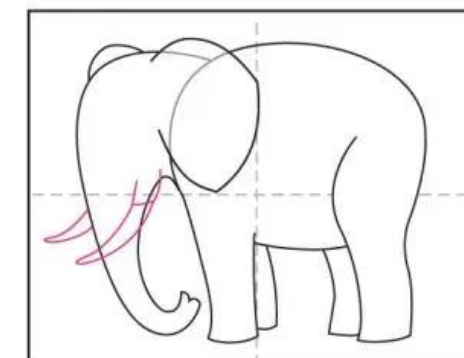
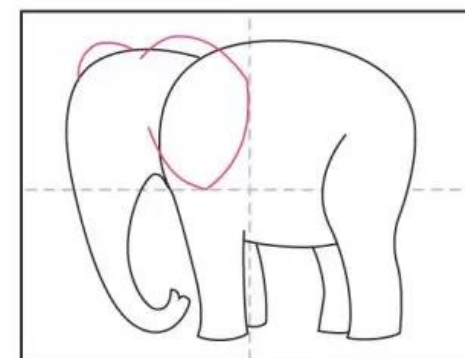
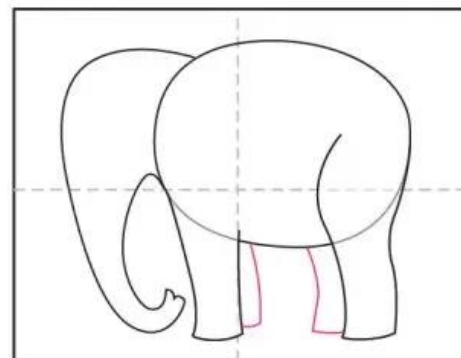
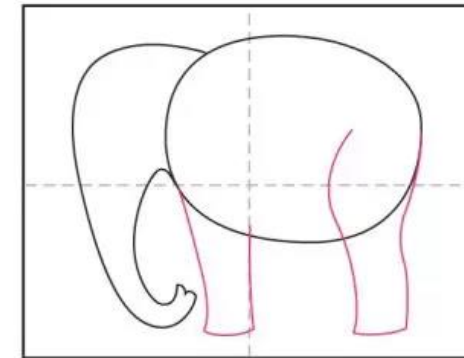
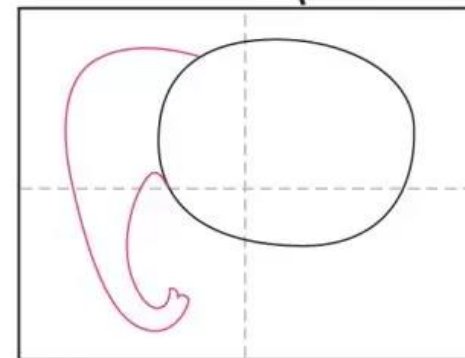
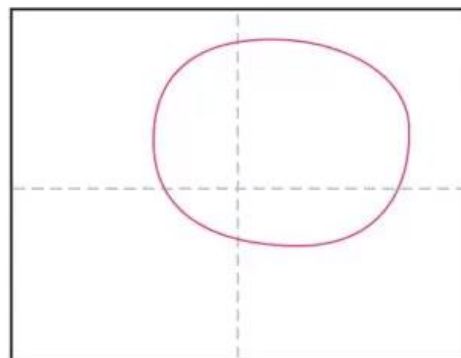
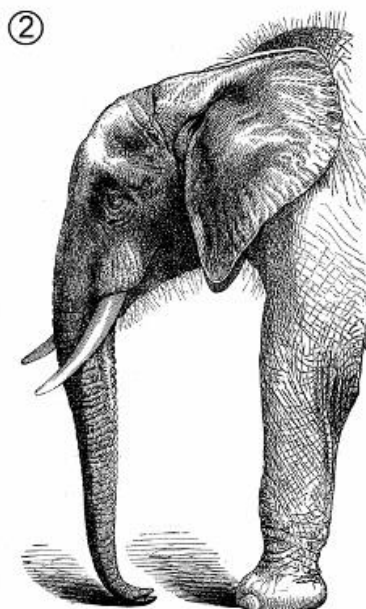
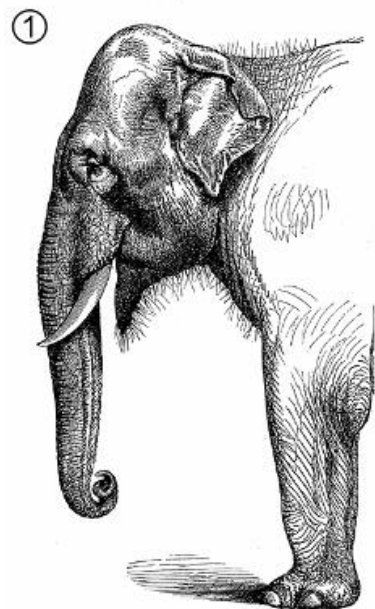


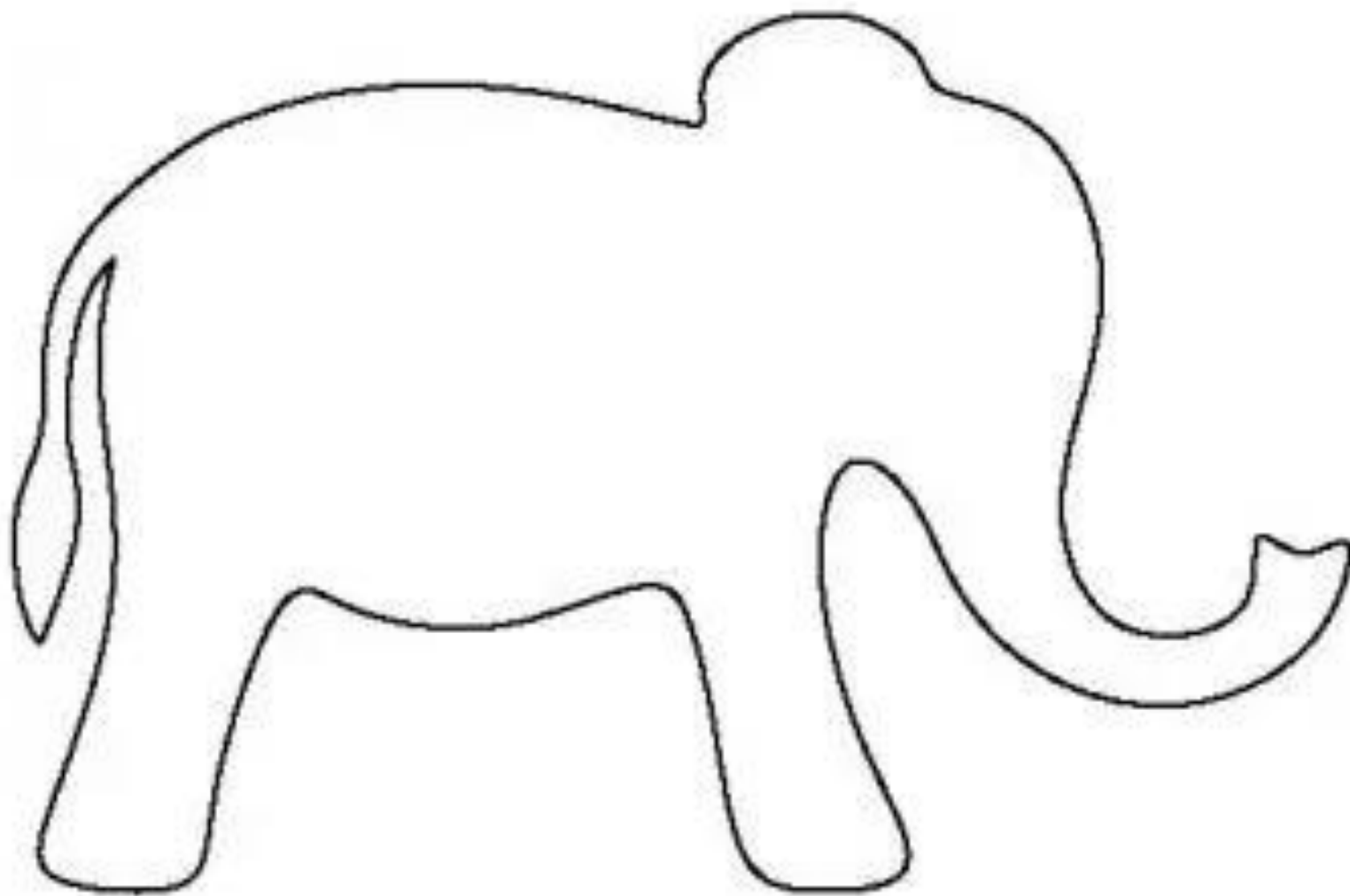
For older readers



Art Projects

You can alter the ears and the domes on the head of your elephant to make Asian or African (see the post on elephant facts)





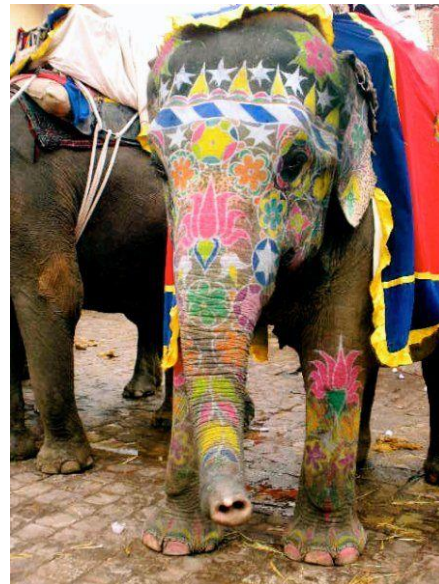
You can use this template for the next two projects.

Celebrating with Elephants

Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights held in Oct./Nov., celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. Diwali, which for some also coincides with harvest and new year celebrations, is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness.

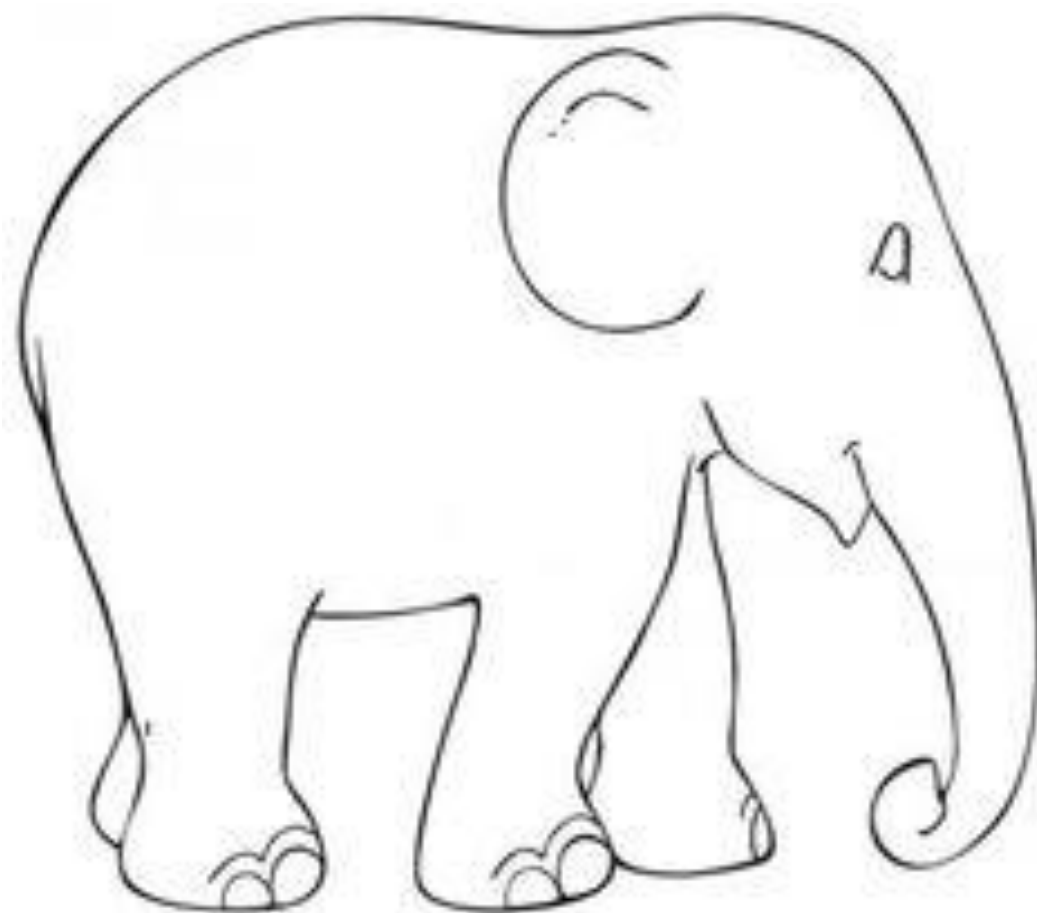
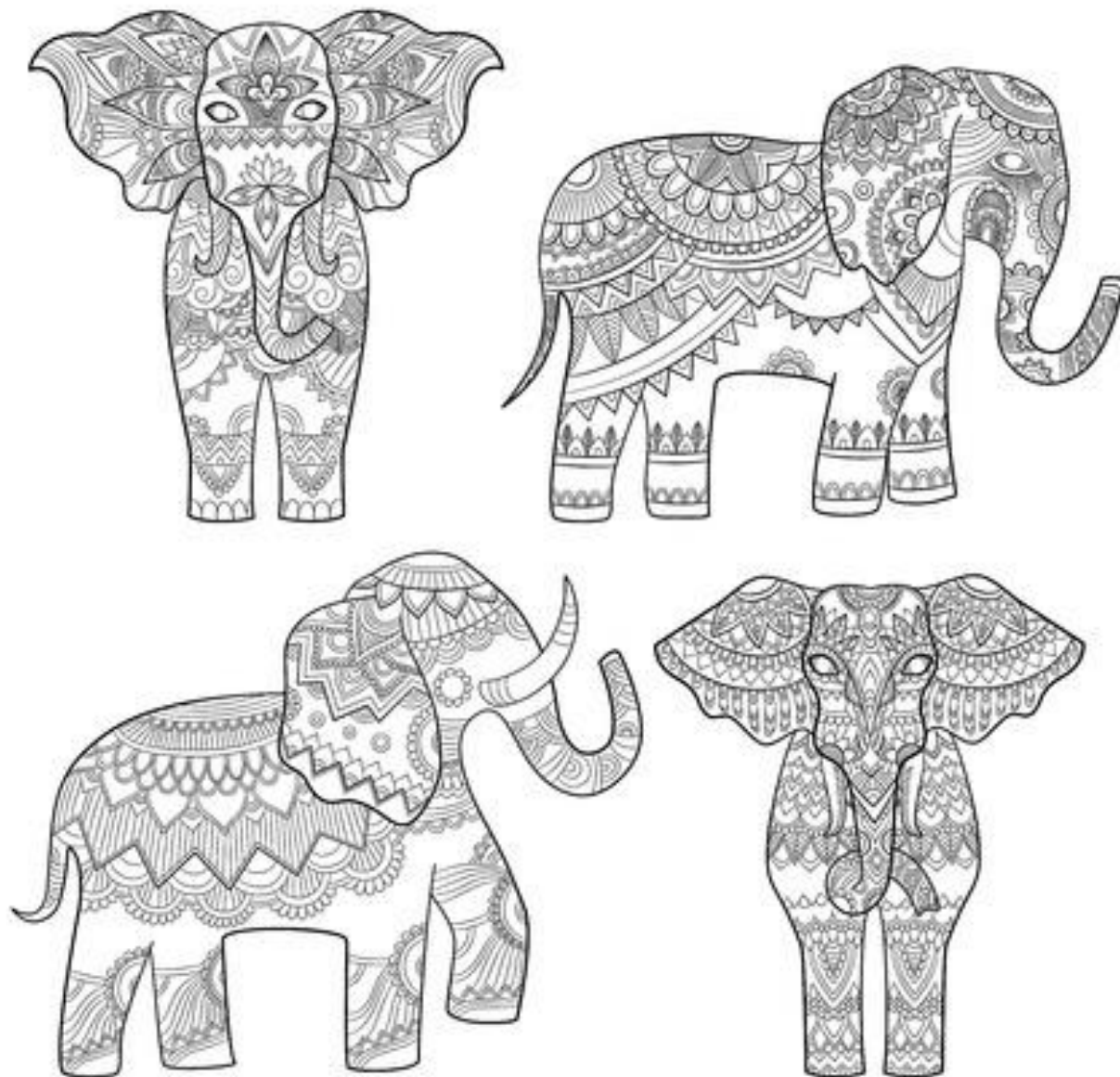
During Diwali observers worship the elephant-headed Lord Ganesha, the god of good beginnings and allegorical destroyer of all evil and obstacles—a beacon of comfort for those in need.

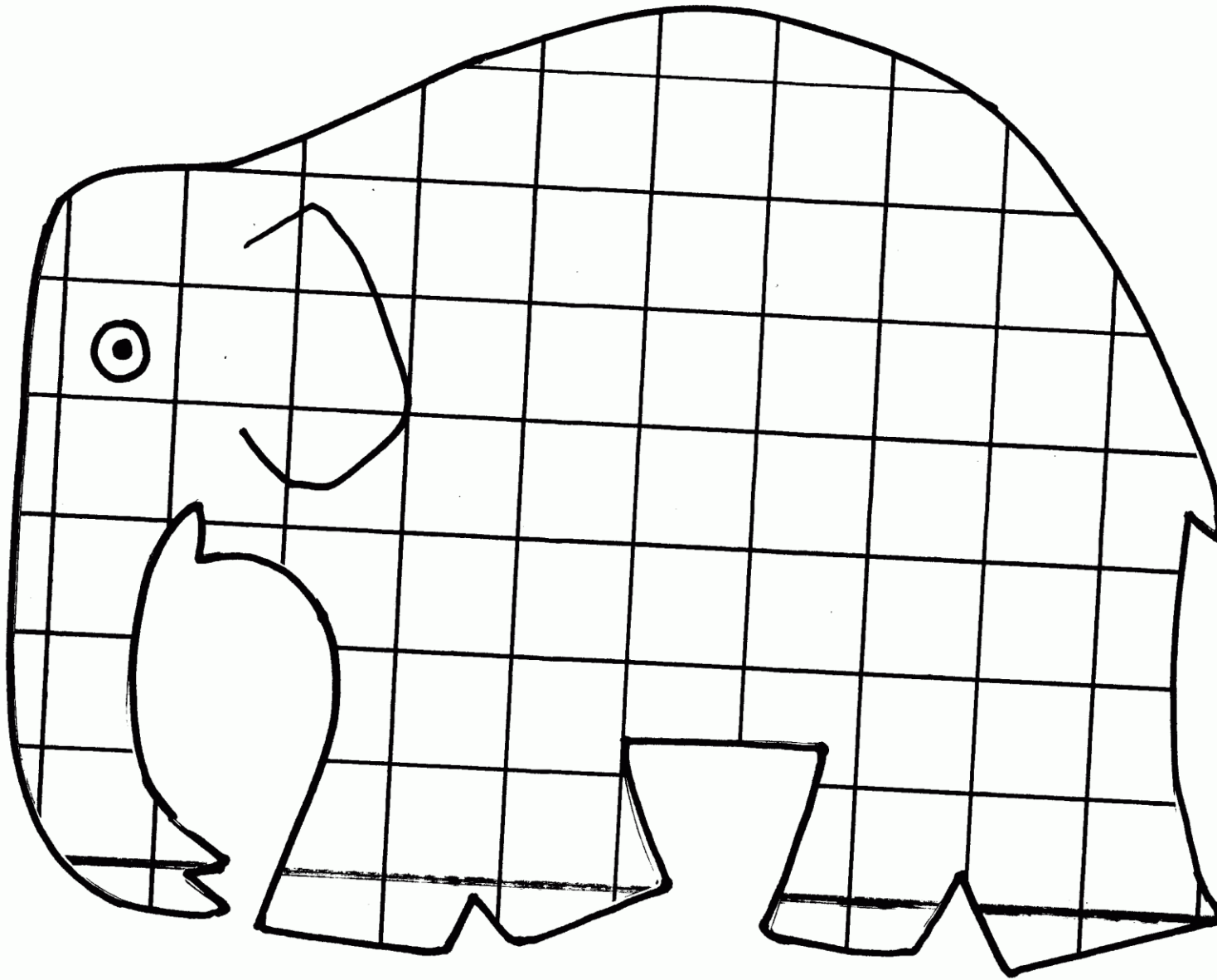
Jaipur has an annual Elephant Festival in March. The celebration begins with a grand parade of elephants with decorated backs, trunks and tusks. Various motifs from Indian culture and tradition are painted on their bodies and they wear jewelry and scarves. Even the mahouts look their best in splendidly embroidered jackets and colorful turbans. The most beautifully decorated elephant is given a prize, in the festival.



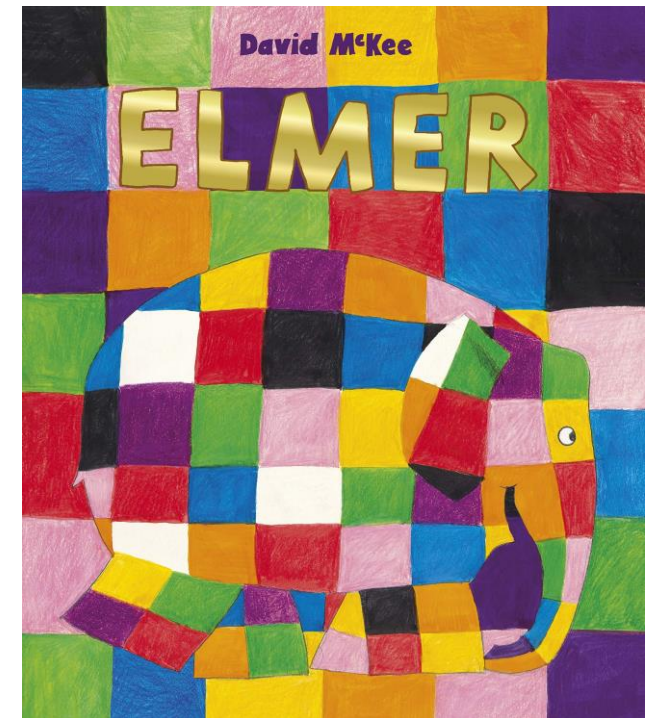
Ganesha; Nepal; 17th century;
copper alloy; Rubin Museum of
Art C2004.22.2 (HAR 65369)

This clip art (royalty free) can give you some ideas. If you use the template below with the back on a fold of the paper your elephant can stand up. Use grey paper and oil pastels or pastels for a realistic look.





You can make Elmer, David McKee's famous story book elephant by coloring the squares. You could also make a mosaic out of squares of construction paper and then outline the template. You can vary the size of your squares to fit the size of your template



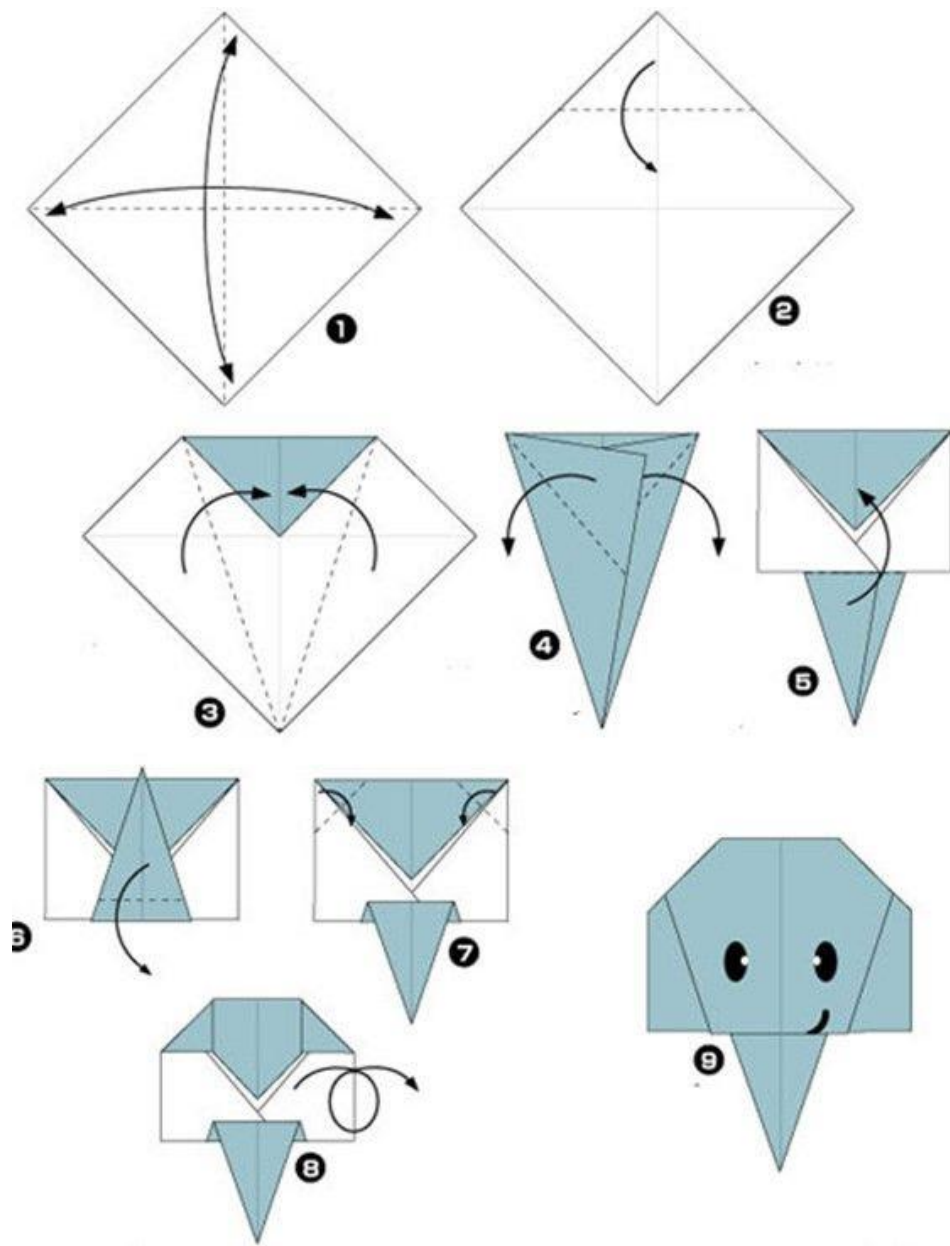


Create a geometric mudcloth pattern on your paper with earth tones (see the photo below). Cut out an elephant to put on top.

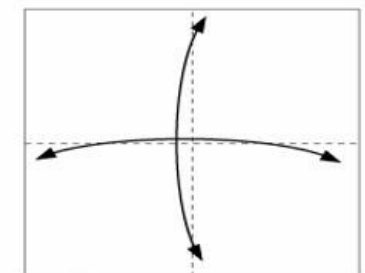
African mudcloth is a traditional Malian fabric that is dyed with fermented mud and plant dyes. ... Historically, the cloth is sun-dried then painted repeatedly with fermented mud, which chemically reacts with the tree leaves and leaves the cloth a rich brown even after the mud is washed off.



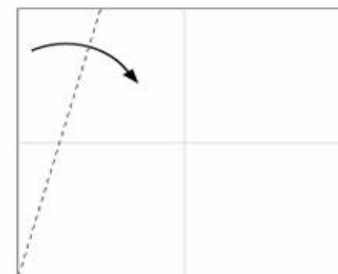
Origami



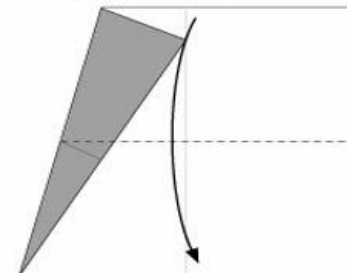
Elephant Face Paper ORIGAMI Blog



1 Fold in half twice to make creases and fold back



2 Fold in the dotted line



3 Fold in half



4 Open the arrow part and flatten

Draw a face
DONE!

