

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Third Grade**  
**Second Nine- Week ELA Study Guide**

**Elephants: The Big Eaters (Part 1)**

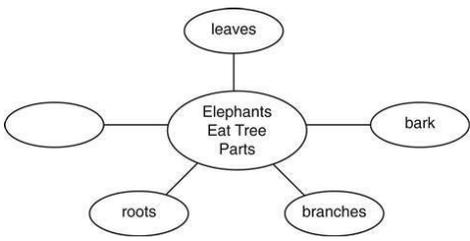
1 Elephants are the largest land animals in the world. There are two main kinds of elephants—African and Asian. African elephants have larger ears and longer tusks than Asian elephants. African elephants are also bigger and taller. An adult male African elephant can weigh as much as 15,000 pounds. An adult male Asian elephant weighs “only” about 10,000 pounds. It would take about 200 third graders to add up to 10,000 pounds!

2 Because they are so big, elephants eat a lot of food. The bigger the elephants are, the more food they need to eat to stay healthy. Adult male African elephants eat between 400 and 600 pounds of food each day. That is about the same weight as 1,600 to 2,400 hamburgers!

3 Did you know elephants do not eat meat? Elephants are **herbivores** or plant-eaters. They enjoy eating about 80 different kinds of plants. Which plants they eat depend on what is growing nearby. Elephants eat just about all the parts of trees and shrubs. They eat leaves, twigs, branches, bark, fruit, and roots. Elephants also like to eat grasses.

4 Elephants have three main tools for eating. They have their trunk, their teeth, and their tusks. The elephant’s trunk looks like a very long nose. Together, the elephant’s nose and upper lip make up its trunk. The elephant’s trunk acts like a hand. It picks up leaves and twigs and puts them into the elephant’s mouth. The trunk also acts like an arm. It breaks off tree branches. The trunk also acts like a hose. It sucks up water and squirts it into the elephant’s mouth.

5 Even though it is a very large animal, an elephant has only four teeth inside its mouth. All four teeth are called molars. They have rough edges to help the elephant chew hard plant parts like twigs and branches. Each molar weighs more than 10 pounds and can be 10 inches long. One pair of molars is in the front of the elephant’s mouth. These two teeth are used the most. Slowly they get smaller and smaller from so much chewing. Once they have worn down, they break into pieces and fall out. Then the back two molars move forward to be used. When that happens, a new pair of molars grows in at the back of the elephant’s mouth. This pair is then ready to move forward when needed. This happens six times during an elephant’s life.

<p>1. What is the main idea of paragraph 4 in this selection? (RI.3.2)</p> <p>A. differences between African and Asian elephants      C. tools elephants use for eating  B. why elephants do not eat meat                                      D. the amount of food elephants eat each day</p>
<p>2. What is the meaning of <i>herbivore</i> in paragraph 3? (RI.3.4)</p> <p>A. a meat eating animal                      B. a plant eating animal                      C. a mammal                      D. tusks</p>
<p>3. Which detail supports the main idea of paragraph 1? (RI.3.2)</p> <p>A. “Elephants have three main tools for eating.”  B. “There are two main kinds of elephants- African and Asian.”  C. “It would take up to 200 third graders to add up to 10,000 pounds!”  D. “Together, the elephant's nose and upper lip make up its trunk.”</p>
<p>4. According to the text, how are Asian elephants and African elephants different? (RI.3.3)</p> <p>A. African elephants have smaller tusks and ears than Asian elephants.  B. Asian elephants are bigger and taller than African elephants.  C. African elephants are bigger and taller than Asian elephants.  D. There are no differences between African elephants and Asian elephants.</p>
<p>5. Read the graphic organizer about elephants. (RI.3.1)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <pre> graph TD     A((leaves)) --- B((Elephants Eat Tree Parts))     B --- C((bark))     B --- D((branches))     B --- E((roots))     B --- F(( )) </pre> </div> <p>Based on paragraph 3, which detail goes in the empty circle?</p> <p>A. meat                      B. worms                      C. tusks                      D. fruit</p>

6. What point does the author make in paragraphs 2 and 3? (RI.3.3)

- A. Elephants eat a lot of plants.
- B. Elephants have a trunk for eating.
- C. Elephants are the world's largest animals.
- D. African and Asian elephants are the same.

7. How many teeth do elephants have? (RI.3.1)

- A. 80
- B. 4
- C. 6
- D. 10

8. According to the passage, what causes an elephant's teeth to get smaller? (RI.3.3)

- A. chewing hard plant parts
- B. migrating to a new area
- C. drinking too much water
- D. chewing on the tusk

9. According to the text, what happens after the elephant's teeth break into pieces and fall out? (RI.3.1)

- A. The tusks grow stronger and longer.
- B. All of the elephant's teeth fall out.
- C. The elephant can no longer eat.
- D. The back two molars move forward to be used.

## Elephants Big Eaters (Part 2)

6 Can you believe an elephant's tusks are really a special kind of tooth growing out of its mouth? Elephant tusks are the largest and heaviest teeth of any living mammal. Tusks are made of a beautiful creamy-white material called ivory. Tusks grow about seven inches a year. The tusks of an older elephant may be as long as eight feet. Tusks help elephants eat because they can dig out the roots of plants and shrubs. Tusks are also used to tear bark off tree trunks and branches. Elephants even use their tusks to dig holes to find water below the ground.

7 In the daytime and at night, most elephants in the world are busy eating. For this reason, finding enough food and water can be difficult for elephants. Even a small **herd** of elephants soon will eat most of the grasses, shrubs, and trees growing in one area. The herd then has to travel to a new place to find plants to eat. A herd of elephants may **migrate** more than 3,000 miles in one year. Every day they need to find lots of food.

<b>Weight of Elephant</b>	<b>Amount of Food-Eaten per Day</b>
5,000 pounds	200–300 pounds
6,500 pounds	260–390 pounds
7,500 pounds	300–450 pounds
8,500 pounds	340–510 pounds
9,000 pounds	360–540 pounds

10. Why did the author add this chart to the story? (RI.3.3)
- A. To show the reader how much elephants weigh.
  - B. To show the reader how an elephant uses its trunk.
  - C. To show the reader how to feed an elephant.
  - D. To show the reader how much food elephants eat in one day.

11. 7. Use the chart from the story to help you answer the question. RI.3.1

Weight of Elephant	Amount of Food-Eaten per Day
5000 pounds	200 - 300 pounds
6500 pounds	260 - 390 pounds
7500 pounds	300 - 450 pounds
8500 pounds	340 - 510 pounds
9000 pounds	360 - 540 pounds

If an elephant ate 250 pounds of food in one day most likely the elephant weighs \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. 5000 pounds
- B. 6500 pounds
- C. 8500 pounds
- D. 9000 pounds

12. Why is it hard for elephants to find food? RI.3.1

- A. They travel in herds.
- B. They eat so much, areas run out of food.
- C. They have tusks.
- D. They have no teeth.

13. In paragraph 7, what does the word **herd** mean? RI.3.4

- A. group
- B. ears
- C. trunk
- D. grass

14. What are tusks made of? RI.3.1

- A. plants
- B. ivory
- C. bark
- D. roots

15. What does the word **migrate** mean in paragraph 7? RI.3.4

- A. group
- B. weight
- C. jump
- D. move

- Use both parts of the text to answer the question.** RI.3.2

16. The passage was written to answer which question?

- A. How fast do elephants run?
- B. How and what do elephants eat?
- C. When do elephants sleep?
- D. Where elephants live?

**Use both parts of the text to answer the question.**

17. Which statement shows that elephants are herbivores?

- A. "Did you know elephants do not eat meat?"
- B. "Elephants have three main tools for eating."
- C. "Tusks are a really special kind of tooth."
- D. "Every day they need to find lots of food."

## California Gold Rush (Part 1)

1 California was not always a popular place to live! Prior to the California Gold Rush, there were less people in California. However, once gold was discovered, thousands of people traveled to California in an attempt to find gold. James Marshall first discovered gold. He was building a sawmill when he noticed shiny flakes of gold in the river. He told John Sutter, who he was working for at the time. They tried to keep it a secret. Unfortunately, the word spread.

2 In 1849, just over a year after the discovery, 90,000 people came to California in search of gold. These people were called forty-niners. Forty-niners didn't just come to California from the United States. They also came from China, Mexico, Europe and Australia. They wanted to find gold to get rich quickly... and they did. Some of them made as much as ten times more money in a day than they did at their old jobs. There were a few ways to find gold. Most of the forty-niners panned for gold. To pan, a miner separated gold from dirt and gravel. First, he placed a sample of dirt into a pan. Then, he placed the pan about six inches under water. He shook the pan vigorously. Because gold is heavy, it would sink to the bottom of the pan. Each time he shook it, more dirt, rocks, and gravel rose to the top. The miner was able to scoop these out and repeat the process. Finally, there were just gold and magnetic black sands at the bottom of the pan. From there miners separated the gold from the sand.

1. What was James Marshall doing when he discovered gold? (RI.3.1)

A. traveling to California                      C. building a sawmill  
B. traveling to China and Mexico              D. talking to the forty-niners

2. Which sentence from the passage is true? (RI.3.1)

A. Gold was discovered by John Sutter.  
B. No one made money from gold.  
C. When mining, gold floats to the top of the pan.  
D. People came from all countries to find gold.

3. What is the meaning of the word **secret** as used in paragraph 1?: (RI.3.4)

A. a forty-niner              B. hidden information              C. words                      D. gossip

4. What is the second step in panning for gold? (RI.3.3)

A. placing the gold in six inches of water              C. placing a sample of dirt in the pan.  
B. separating gold from sand                              D. finding the sand at the bottom of the pan.

5. What is the main idea of paragraph 1? (RI.3.2)

A. Once gold was discovered, thousands of people moved away from California.  
B. James Marshal first discovered gold.  
C. Unfortunately the word spread.  
D. California was not always a popular place to live.

## California Gold Rush (Part 2)

3 Every time gold was discovered in a particular location, miners would quickly move there. They would set up a mining camp. These grew so rapidly that they were called boomtowns. For example, San Francisco is a boomtown. Within a few years, it grew by over 20,000 residents. However, not all boomtowns stayed populated. Miners deserted many of these towns once all of the gold was discovered. Once they were abandoned, they became known as ghost towns.

4 Historians believe that around 12 million ounces of gold were mined during the California Gold Rush. The next year, California was admitted as the 31<sup>st</sup> state of the United States of America. Since then, there have been other gold rushes in the United States. Pike's Peak Gold Rush occurred in Colorado, and the Klondike Gold Rush occurred in Alaska. If there is one thing to motivate people to move, it is gold and the hopes of becoming wealthy.



6. What did they name the towns that grew so rapidly? (RI.3.1)  
A. forty-niners    B. boomtowns    C. ghost towns    D. miners

7. According to the text how did towns become ghost towns? (RI.3.1)  
A. When people discovered gold and went to that town  
B. When people abandoned the town and went to other places.  
C. When gold was discovered in a particular town.  
D. When people panned for gold.

8. How much gold do they believe was found during the Gold Rush? (RI.3.1)  
A. 31 ounces    B. 12 million ounces    C. 12 thousand ounces    D. 20, 000 ounces

9. In paragraph 3 what does the word **rapidly** mean? (RI.3.4)  
A. busy    B. stayed    C. slowly    D. quickly

**Use both parts of the text to answer the question.**

10. What happened after John Marshall told John Sutter about discovering gold? (RI.3.1)  
A. Over 90,000 people came to California    C. People moved to Mexico.  
B. Forty-niners lived in ghost towns.    D. Not many people lived in California

**Use both parts of the text to answer the question.**

11. Which statement from the passage tells how some places got populated so quickly? (RI.3.2)  
A. "Historians believed that around 12 million ounces of gold were mined during the California Gold Rush."  
B. "From there miners separated the gold from the sand."  
C. "These people were called forty-niners."  
D. "Everytime gold was discovered in a particular location, miners would quickly move there."

**Use both parts of the text to answer the question.**

12. Which statement from the story best describes the picture from the story? (RI.3.7)



- A. "Every time gold was discovered in a particular location, miners would quickly move there."
- B. "The next year, California was admitted as the 31<sup>st</sup> state of the United States of America."
- C. "Most of the forty-niners panned for gold."
- D. "They tried to keep it a secret."

**Use both parts of the text to answer the question.**

13. What fact does the reader learn from this passage? (RI.3.1)

- A. Gold can be found in all fifty states.
- B. Forty-niners only came from California
- C. Ghost towns were well populated with people.
- D. Thousands of people traveled to California to find gold.

**Use both parts of the text to answer the question.**

14. Which sentence supports the central message of the text? (RI.3.2)

- A. " These grew so rapidly they began to be called boomtowns."
- B. "However, once gold was discovered, thousands of people traveled to California in an attempt to find gold."
- C. "There were a few ways to find gold."
- D. "The next year, California was added as the 31<sup>st</sup> state of the United States of America."

## Fish Tale (Part 1)

1 Many years ago a large fish lived in the ocean. The fish found the ocean to be an amazing place. It was also full of dangers. To stay safe, it hid along the ocean reef. The ocean was very busy. The water was bursting with many other fish.

2 Say after day, the large fish darted along. It swam in shallow water. It swam in deep water. It once woke a sleeping green turtle. It swam past mini-canyons. It sped among bright sponges. It saw purple, yellow, and orange coral.

3. Sometimes, large shapes appeared. These were the shapes of hide-and-strike fish. At any moment, one could circle overhead. The large fish was always watchful.

4. "This ocean is a beautiful place," thought the large fish. "It is home to many wonderful creatures. But some are scary." Sharks came in the blink of an eye. "I might be their meal one day," thought the fish sadly.

1.How did the fish stay safe? (RI.3.1 )

- A. It jumped out of the ocean.                      C. It swam in deep waters.  
B. It hid along the ocean reefs.                      D. It played with sharks.

2. In paragraph 2, what does the word darted mean? (RI.3.4 )

- A. crawled              B. moved slowly              C. moved quickly              D. walked

3. Which sentence from the story describes why the fish was always watchful?  
(RI.3.1 )

- A. "The fish found the ocean to be an amazing place."  
B. "The ocean is beautiful."  
C. "Many years ago a large fish lived in the ocean."  
D. "I might be their meal one day."

## Fish Tale (Part 2)

5 Then the fish's life changed. The day was bright and clear. The fish swam near the water's surface to enjoy the sun's rays in the water. All of a sudden, the sun's rays were blocked, and the fish looked up to see a large shadow in the water above. "What has blocked the sun?" wondered the fish.

6 Before the fish could find the answer, a large net circled around it. The fish swam this way and that, but the net tangled up around it. The fish could not escape. A man pulled the net and fish from the water and on to his boat. "This is a fine fish!" said the man happily. "It will feed all of my children well."

7 However, the man soon found it was no ordinary fish. The fish began to plead with the man in a human voice. "Please, sir," the fish begged, "put me back in the sea." The man was surprised. How could this fish talk?"

8 The fish did indeed talk. It told the man about the odd creatures of the sea. It described fish with flute-shaped mouths. It told of masses of fish eggs. It spoke about angelfish, coral trout, and leopard sharks. It asked the man for mercy.

9 The man was **fascinated** by the fish's tales. "I have never heard such exciting stories," said the man. The man got an idea. "If I throw you back in the water, will you come to shore when I call you?" he asked.

10 "I will, if you set me free," replied the big fish.

11 "I have many children but few stories. My family would be very interested in your stories. I will bring the children sometimes to the sea. You can entertain us."

12 The fish was on guard. It had learned to avoid humans. Still it was a good offer. "I will come when you call and tell your children about my life in the ocean," decided the fish. The man threw the fish back into the sea and the fish swam away quickly.

13 The fish kept its promise. It met the fisherman's children at the shore. The children sat in the shallow water and listened to the fish's stories. The fish told of times it had been chased by terrifying creatures. Its narrow escapes kept the children in awe. It told of enormous sea creatures never before seen by humans. The fish never retold the same tale. Its endless stories kept the children happy for many years

14 That is how fish tales came to be told.

4. In paragraph 9, what does the word **fascinated** mean? (RI.3.4)

- A. excited      B. mad      C. scared      D. doubt

5. Why does the large fish decide to tell stories about his life in the ocean? (RI.3.3)

- A. so the fisherman will set him free
- B. to escape the shark
- C. to wake the sleeping turtle
- D. before he was caught in the net

6. Which sentence from the selection shows that the fish is honest? (RI.3.2)

- A. "This ocean is a beautiful place."
- B. "It spoke about angelfish, coral trout, and leopard sharks."
- C. "That is how fish tales can be told."
- D. "The fish kept its promise."

7. Following the sequence of the story, which sentence from the selection goes in the empty box? (RI.3.3)

The fish swam this way and that but the net tangled up around it.		The man was fascinated by the fish tales.	The man threw the fish back into the sea and the fish swam away quickly.
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- A. However, the man soon found it was no ordinary fish.
- B. Many years ago a fish lived in the ocean.
- C. The fish met the fisherman's children at the shore.
- D. The man fed his children the fish.

**Use both parts of the text to answer the question.**

8. What is the author's purpose for writing Fish Tale? (RI.3.5)

- A. To persuade the reader to be kind to fish
- B. To explain to the reader how to catch a fish
- C. To inform the reader about the life of a fish
- D. To entertain the reader with a story about fish

## **How Bears Got Stumpy Tails (Part 1)**

*Based on a folktale from Norway*

1 Many years ago, bears did not have short tails. Bears' tails were long and furry. Their tails dragged behind them on the ground. When two bears walked together, one bear would step on the other bear's tail. Their tails would fill with mud when they walked throughout the forest after a rain.

2 One day, a little bear with an extra-long, bushy tail had an idea. "If I could just think of a way to keep my tail off the ground," he said to himself. "No one would step on it again. It wouldn't get muddy." He thought and thought. "I know what to do!" he shouted. "I'll tie balloons to my tail. The balloons will float and hold my tail high in the air."

3 The little bear hurried to the store. He bought six brightly colored balloons. The bear tied long strings to the balloons. Then, he tied the balloons to the end of his tail. As he walked into the woods, his tail no longer dragged behind him. Instead, it floated in the air like a feather in the wind.

4 Soon, the little bear met four bear friends in the woods. They laughed at the sight of their friend with six balloons attached to his tail. "Laugh if you will," said the little bear, "but no one will step on my nice, clean tail."



## How Bears Got Stumpy Tails (Part 2)

5 Just then the branches from the trees poked the balloons. Pop, pop, pop! Pop, pop, pop! The balloons burst one by one. With each pop, the bear's tail sank lower and lower. Once it dragged behind him on the ground. All four friends stepped on his tail at once.

6 "That didn't work well," thought the little bear, rubbing his sore tail. "I must think of something else." He thought and thought. "I have it now!" he shouted. "Why didn't I think of this before? I'll tie one end of a rope to my tail. I will pull the other end of the rope over my shoulder. I'll use the rope as a **pulley** and my tail will rise."

7 The bear searched for rope. After tying the rope to his tail, he walked along the forest path. He tested his new tail pulley. It worked **perfectly**. Once again, little bear met his four bear friends. They laughed at the sight of the little bear.

8 One of the bears grabbed the rope and pulled it. He yanked, causing the little bear to flip head over heels. The little bear landed on a sharp rock. His long, bushy tail snapped. All that was left of his tail was a little stump.

9 At first, the little bear was angry. He growled at his friends and stomped his feet. Soon, he found that his short tail was less trouble. No one stepped on it. It did not get wet when he walked through the mud. His new stumpy tail was a wonderful thing.

10 Soon, the other bears noticed. They wanted stumpy tails. The little bear helped them get new tails. Since that time, all bears have short, stumpy tails.

6. In paragraph 7, what does the word **perfectly** mean? (RL3.4)

- A. in a happy manner
- B. with no mistakes
- C. with many mistakes
- D. without anger

7. What is the meaning of the word **pulley** as it is used in paragraph 6? (RL3.4)

- A. a bushy tail
- B. to drag something around on the ground
- C. something used to raise and lower objects
- D. a group of friends

8. What might happen next time little bear's friends need a problem solved?

(RL3.3)

- A. They will tie a rope to their tails.
- B. They will laugh at Little Bear.
- C. They will not listen to Little Bear.
- D. They will ask Little Bear for advice.

9. Which sentence from the story shows that Little Bear is happy with his new tail? (RL3.3)

- A. "Soon he found that his short tail was less trouble."
- B. "Little Bear hurried to the store."
- C. "He growled at his friends and stomped his feet."
- D. "Since that time all bears have short stumpy tails."

10. Why did Little Bear's friends want new tails? (RL3.1)

- A. They were sorry they laughed at Little Bear.
- B. They see how Little Bear's short, stumpy tail is better than a long bushy tail.
- C. They see how Little Bear's short tail makes him have more fun.
- D. They do not want Little Bear to be the only bear with a short, stumpy tail.

**Use both parts of the text to answer the question.**

11. Read the chart of events from the story.

(RL3.3)

The little bear ties balloons to his tail.	Little Bear's friends laughed at him		The other bears want stumpy tails.
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According to the sequence, which sentence belongs in the box?

- A. The little bear helped his friends get new tails.
- B. The friends step on the little bear's tail.
- C. The balloons pop because of tree branches.
- D. The little bear drgx hiz furry tail b behind him..

**Use both parts of the text to answer the question.**

12. How did little bear's feelings change from the beginning of the story to the end of the story?

(RL3.3)

- A. He becomes angry when his friends like his short tail.
- B. He becomes proud when his friends want short tails like his tail.
- C. He becomes frightened when his friends want tails like his tail.
- D. He becomes unhappy when his tail is broken by his friends.

## Answer Key

### Elephants: The Big Eaters

1. C	2. B	3. B	4. C	5. D
6. A	7. B	8. A	9. D	10. D
11. A	12. B	13. A	14. B	15. D
16. B	17. A			

### California Gold Rush

1. C	2. D	3. B	4. A	5. D
6. B	7. B	8. B	9. D	10. A
11. D	12. C	13. D	14. B	

### Fish Tale

1. B	2. C	3. D	4. A	5. A
6. D	7. A	8. D		

### How Bears Got Stumpy Tails

1. D	2. A	3. B	4. C	5. D
6. B	7. C	8. D	9. A	10. B
11. C	12. B			

