

National Geographic Kids Reader: Elephants

Notes for parents: reading this book with your child

- Before your child shares this book with you, look at the front cover and discuss what they know about elephants and how they survive. Prompt them to think about what they know from wildlife programmes/films and other stories/books and experiences.
- Look through the table of contents together. Discuss what the headings *Tough Travel* and *Full Circle* might mean.
- Look at some of the pictures together and discuss images that your child is most interested in.
- Here are some ways you can help your child as they learn to read more complex information books:
 - Read the *Weighty Words* that are featured in the glossary together: *migration, mate, herbivore, habitat, herd, instinct, calf, poacher, livestock, drought*. Talk about the pictures in the glossary and help your child to develop understanding.
 - Help your child read unfamiliar words and place names: *Mali elephant, wildebeest, Sahara desert, Africa, Asia, papayas, Lake Banzena*.
 - Ask your child simple questions as you read, or talk about your own reactions to the information, e.g. your surprise at how sensitive an elephant's hearing is.
 - Help your child to read the map and graph, and check that they understand the statistics that are used, e.g. compare the weight of a baby elephant to your weight.
- Discuss why Mali elephants have to migrate and why they are still endangered. Help your child to understand that they are threatened by a range of factors, and that humans are trying to help their situation.

Pronunciation guide: Mali (*mar-lee*), Banzena (*ban-zeen-uh*)

Collins