

“Stand Back,” Said the Elephant, “I’m Going to Sneeze!”

by Patricia Thomas

Beautiful pen and watercolor illustrations and comical poetic verse tell the story of a jungle in a panic when the elephant announces he needs to sneeze.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Do you think an elephant sneeze sounds anything like a human sneeze?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder why the animals are all running?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in “Stand Back,” Said the Elephant, “I’m Going to Sneeze!”

- trunk: the long muscular nose of an elephant, used for grasping and feeding
- jouncing: move while bouncing
- gale: strong wind
- hurricane: severe tropical storm with torrential rain and extremely strong winds
- whirling: turn or spin rapidly
- parakeet: small tropical parrot that has a long tail and is brightly colored
- peacocks: a bird with a large fan-shaped tail with bright blue feathers
- cockatoo: a parrot with white or light-colored feathers
- declare: announce something clearly and loudly
- scales: flaky substance that cover the outside of fish and other water animals
- gills: breathing organ of fish
- prickle: tingling or stinging sensation
- astounding: to overwhelm and stun somebody with sudden surprise
- confounding: bewilder somebody, to puzzle or confuse
- guffawed: to laugh loudly and raucously
- chortled: a noisy gleeful laugh
- quivering: to shake rapidly with small movements
- quaking: to shake or rock from instability or from a disturbance

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why did the elephant warn everybody that he was going to sneeze?
- What happened to the monkeys the last time the elephant sneezed?
- Why didn't the birds want him to sneeze? The bees? The bear?
- Why did the fish' scales fall off last time?
- What happened to the leopard's spots and the zebra's stripes?
- What did the mouse do to the elephant?
- How did the elephant react to the mouse?
- What happened to all the animals when the elephant started to laugh?



Do

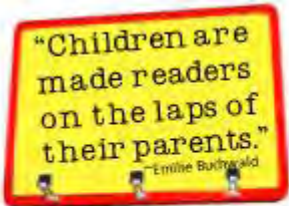
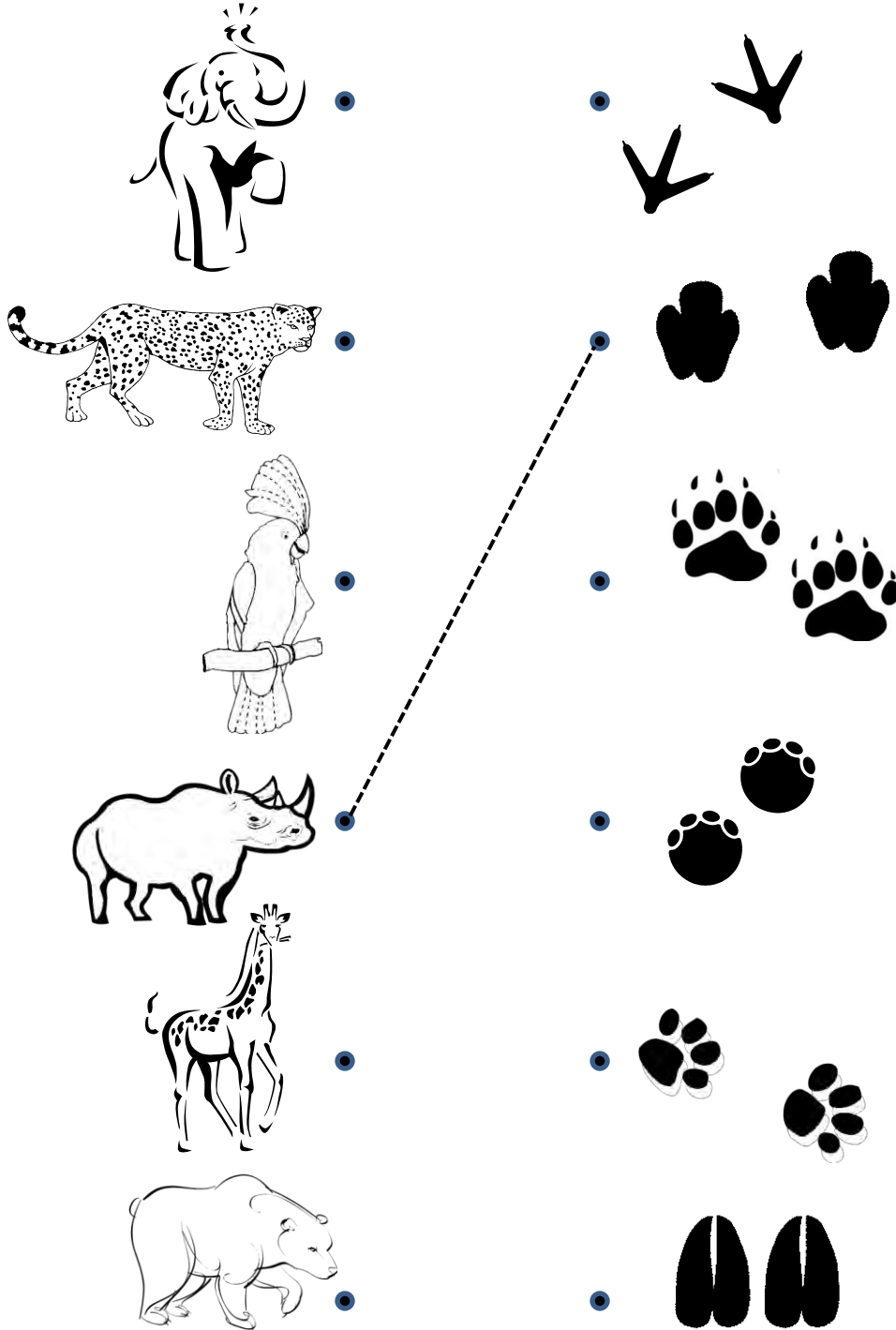
Match the Paw Prints

Hand each child the *Whose Prints are These?* sheet and help the children match the animal to the correct print. If desired, the children can color the animals once they have completed the activity.

My Name: _____

Whose Prints are These?

Draw a line from the animal to the correct print



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