


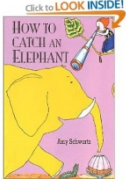
Catch an Elephant

First Grade: Language Arts

FLUENCY,
ORIGINALITY,
FLEXIBILITY &
ELABORATION



**Gifted behaviors
to look for:**
Creative-
Communicative-
Curious

SBI Indicators(s)	ELA.G1.1.b.1; ELA.G1.7.b
Materials	  Elephant facts poster (optional)
ESOL Accommodations	Provide visuals and/or act out ideas. Utilize various groupings. Define unfamiliar vocabulary.
Marzano Strategy	Generating and Testing Hypotheses
Patterns of Thinking	Relationship/Perspective

Link	<p>List the following row of names on the board and ask students what they have in common: Thomas Jefferson Mary Anderson George Washington Carver iron and mould board plows windshield wipers peanut butter</p> <p>Let students know that all of the people listed are inventors and share what they invented if they did not already share. Ask, “What kind of thinking do you need to be an inventor?” Say, “Today we are going to use our imaginations to create an invention that will catch an elephant. We are then going to communicate our invention idea with classmates.”</p>
	<p><u>Assessment:</u> A “Curious” student may ask if he/she can gather more research and find the weight of the elephant.</p>
Engage and Educate	<p>Ask, “Have you ever caught anything? What was it? Show us how you caught it.” Say, “We have a big problem today. We are going to try to catch an elephant.” Ask, “Why would you want to catch an elephant?”</p> <p>Show pictures and excerpts from <i>Elephants</i> by Sydnie Meltzer Kleinhenz or any other nonfiction text on elephants and/or share the attached elephant facts with students. You might consider cutting out the facts and creating a poster.</p> <p>Ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Do you think elephants are hard to catch?” • “Why or why not?” • “Which would be easier, to catch an elephant or a mouse? Why do you think that?” <p>Read the book <i>How to Catch an Elephant</i> by Amy Schwartz to show another way to catch an elephant.</p>
	<p><u>Assessment:</u> A “Resourceful” student would understand that it might be easier to catch an elephant but a mouse would be easier to contain. A “Curious” student might wonder why someone would want to catch an elephant.</p>
Active Learning	<p>Review the meaning of the words fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration. Remind students that these are skills to practice to become more creative and tools of the inventor. Say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Use your imagination to think of a new way to catch an elephant safely. Try to think of something no one else will. This is using our flexible and original thinking.” • “Write a sentence and then draw a picture to show how you would catch the elephant. Think about what you would do first, second, and third. Use captions and details to describe your picture. This is showing how you can elaborate in communicating your ideas.”
<p>Extension(s): Students can invent a way to weigh an elephant. Draw a picture that explains the process</p>	

	<p>Assessment: A “Creative” creation might include using a current invention for catching an object in a new but realistic way. For example, a student might adapt a “bug zapper” in which insects are drawn to the scents and light and then trapped. This invention could be scaled up and made applicable to catching an elephant.</p>
R e f l e c t	<p>Students will orally explain how their machine will catch an elephant. Ask students to share how they thought of their idea, what would use, and why they think their creation will work.</p>
N o w a n d T h e n	<p>Say, “We have been learning that it’s important to think flexibly and to use elaboration to communicate our ideas. We will continue to develop our oral language through story retelling and story telling.”</p>



Each day at the zoo, elephants eat 125 pounds of hay, ten pounds of herbivore pellets, ten pounds of vegetables and fruits, and a few leafy branches.

Elephants cry, play, have incredible memories, and laugh!

Elephants have greeting ceremonies when a friend that has been away for some time returns to the group.

Elephants can provide water for other species by digging water holes in dry riverbeds or the depressions created by their footprints trap rainfall.

An elephant's journey through the high grass provides food for birds by disturbing small reptiles, amphibians or insects.

Elephants can grow up to 21 feet long, stand up to 10 feet tall, and weigh up to 11, 000 pounds.

Elephant trunks can get very heavy! It is not uncommon to see elephants resting their trunk over a tusk.

Elephants are sensitive fellow animals. If a baby complains, the entire family will rumble and go over to touch and caress it.

Elephants don't drink with their trunks, but they use them as "tools" to drink. They do this by filling their trunk with water and then using it as a hose to pour it into their mouth.



How to Catch an Elephant

By: _____

First

Second

Third
