

Art Lesson 3: Enormous Elephants

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, pupils listen to *The Elephant* from *The Carnival of the Animals*, by French composer Camille Saint-Saëns. They use this as a starting point to create their own sculpture of an elephant, using newspaper. Pupils work in a small group to create their elephant sculpture.

Suggested Learning Intentions

We are learning to:

- explore the qualities of newspaper to create our own unique structure; and
- listen actively and share opinions (Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities: Working with Others).

Suggested Success Criteria

I will be successful if ...

- I can use newspaper in different ways to create 3D shapes.
- I can listen to my friends and suggest ideas.

Materials needed for this lesson

- Lots of newspaper
- Masking tape
- String

Suggested Artworks

- *The Elephants* by Salvador Dali (1948)
- *Swans Reflecting Elephants* by Salvador Dali (1937)
- Explore illustrations of elephants in children's picture books.

Ideas for Cross-Curricular and Connected Play-Based Learning Opportunities

- **Language and Literacy**

Read story books about elephants with the class. For example *Elmer* by David McKee, *I Broke My Trunk* by Mo Willems, *Strictly No Elephants* by Lisa Mantchev or *The Elephant and the Bad Baby* by Elfrida Vipont. Use as a stimulus for writing or talking and listening activities.

- **Mathematics and Numeracy**

Ask your pupils to:

- create a picture of an elephant, using 2D shapes; and
- create a large-scale picture of an elephant outdoors, using found objects, for example pebbles, leaves or tree stumps.

This could provide weighing opportunities, such as how many objects weigh the same as a baby elephant (stuffed toy)?

- **Music**

Play instruments to encourage your pupils to make slow movements like an elephant.

- **Role Play**

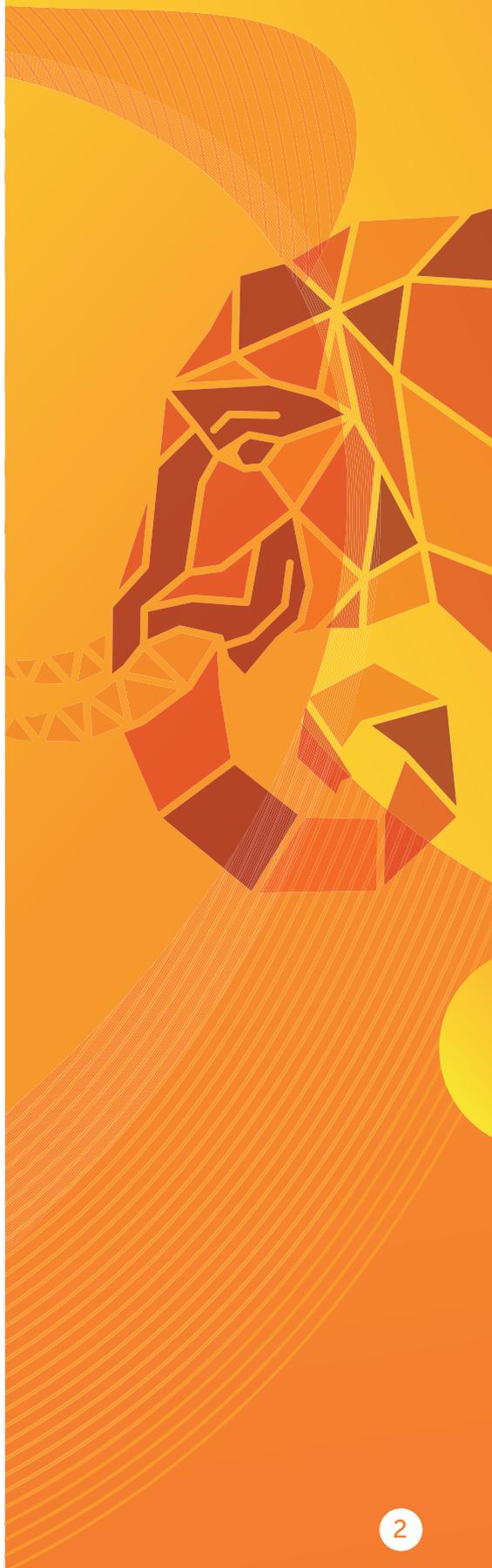
Ask your pupils to pretend they are a zookeeper and learn how to care for an elephant.

- **World Around Us**

Teach your pupils about the places where elephants live and the different types of elephants and their roles. See [Indian Elephant](https://www.worldwildlife.org) at www.worldwildlife.org for more information.

- **ICT**

Draw and design an elephant based on an illustration from a story book.



Suggested Lesson Phase

Introduction

Share the learning intentions and success criteria with your pupils, making sure to include Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. Recall *The Carnival of the Animals* and ask your pupils to listen to [The Elephant](#), which is available on YouTube.

Ask your pupils to guess what animals the music was about. Encourage them to describe the music. Then ask them to listen a second time, encouraging them to move to the music like an enormous elephant.

Tell your pupils that they are going to work together to create a sculpture of an enormous elephant.

Warm up: Discuss with your pupils the materials that are available to groups in this task – newspaper, masking tape and string. Talk to your pupils about sculptures, explaining that they are 3D models and creations that people build and we can walk around and touch them.

Tell your pupils that they are going to think of ways that they can turn their flat pages of newspaper into sculptures. Give each pupil a sheet of newspaper and ask them to change it in some way so that it becomes 3D.

Talk about the different processes that pupils could use, such as scrunching, rolling, folding, wrapping, twisting or bending. Discuss how they could use these methods to create an elephant. For example, they could:

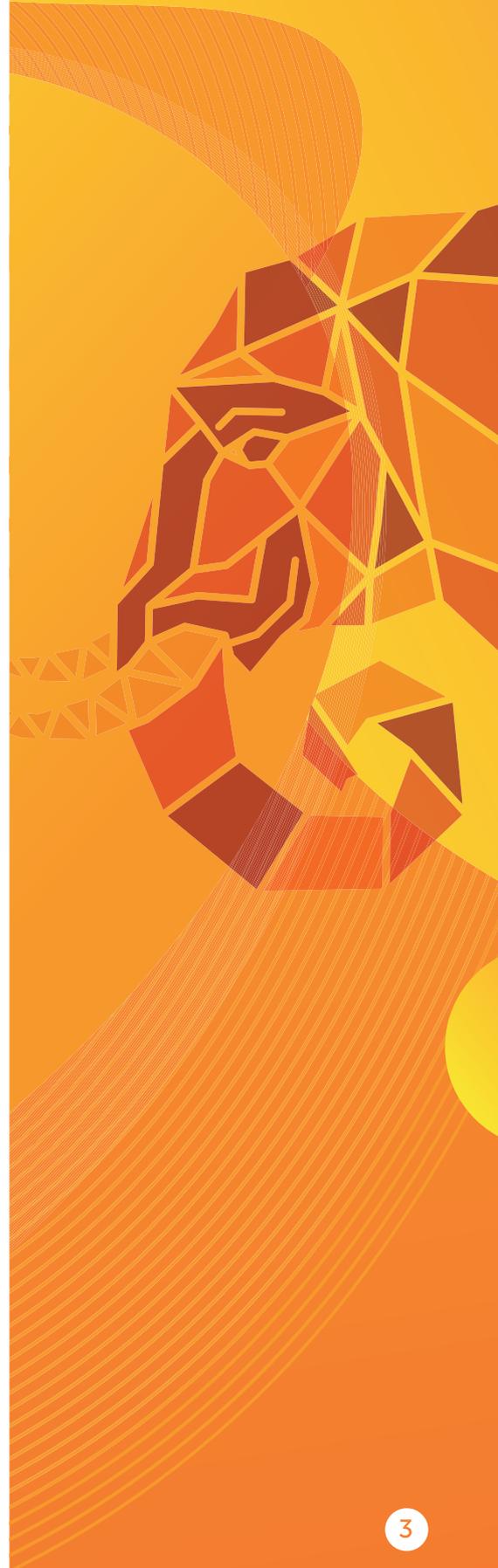
- scrunch up lots of newspaper into balls;
- wrap a larger sheet around the balls;
- tape it together to make a belly or a head; and
- roll up sheets of newspaper to make the elephant's legs.

Ask your pupils to think about how they could make the elephant's legs strong. For example, they could roll up a few sheets of newspaper and then tie or tape them together.

Tell your pupils that they must **work together** with their team to decide how to create their elephant.

Activity

In groups of no more than three, invite your pupils to work together to create their Enormous Elephant. He must be able to stand up all by himself. Remember, no scissors or glues are allowed!



Foundation Stage

The Carnival of the Animals

Plenary

Place all of the Enormous Elephants on display. Invite your pupils to observe and talk about the different ways each group approached the task. Then ask the groups to complete the statements below:

- We really enjoyed ...
- We found it difficult when ...
- We worked well as a team when ...

