

Suzy's World

Elephant - Why aren't elephants purple?

Fact

- Some animals use colours to attract a partner – an elephant doesn't need to do that.
- An elephant's skin is grey, wrinkly and looks rather dry, just like the dry dusty desert areas they live in.



Do you know

- Elephants are herbivores and they need flat chewing, grinding teeth called molars.
- Elephants can only make 6 molar teeth and they only have two molars at a time in their mouths.
- Elephants can live up to 60 years and they die when they run out of teeth.
- Elephants communicate using sounds too low to be heard by human ears.
- Some animals use camouflage so they can hunt other animals without being seen.
- Other animals use the colour of their skin to blend in with their habitats so they can hide.

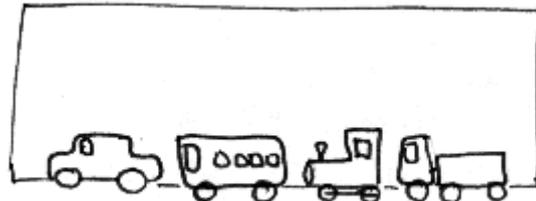
Experiments you can do

What animals can you think of use camouflage? There are plenty in your back yard- take a look under bits of wood, pot plants and leaves.

Are they hunting animals sneaking up on their prey or animals that are hiding from their predators?

Other Investigations

Line up a number of toys of a similar size against a piece of paper that is the same colour as one of your toys. (Toy cars are good for this). Stand back about a meter and a half – about the length of your bed. Which toy is the hardest to see?



Jokes

When do elephants have 8 legs? When there are two of them.

Why did the elephant cross the road? The chicken was on holiday.

Which is stronger, an elephant or a snail? A snail, because it carries its house – an elephant only carries its trunk.