

When the other elephants could bear it no longer, they all went to the crocodile to get new noses just like his.

So thanks to the very curious elephant's child, all the elephants today have long trunks.

—Rudyard Kipling

About the Author

Joseph Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936) was an English journalist, short-story writer, poet and novelist. *The Jungle Book*, *Kim* and *The Man Who Would Be King* are some of his well-known works.

Understanding the Text

A. Choose the correct answer.

1. The crocodile asked the baby elephant to come close because he
 - a. wanted to play with the baby elephant
 - ☒ b. wanted to eat the baby elephant
 - c. had a bad throat and could not talk loudly
2. The crocodile had a mouth which
 - a. was clean and smelled nice
 - b. had no teeth and no smell
 - ☒ c. was foul smelling and full of teeth
3. The crocodile caught the baby elephant by his
 - a. tail
 - ☒ b. nose
 - c. leg
4. The other elephants went to the crocodile to get new noses because
 - a. it made them look good
 - b. they were jealous
 - ☒ c. they realised it was useful
5. The word **shrink** means to
 - ☒ a. reduce in size
 - b. dry up
 - c. back away

Playing with Words

F. Name the pictures of the baby animals with the help of the words in the

lamb

cub

kitten

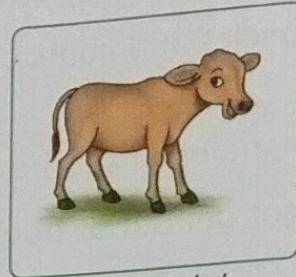
calf

joey

fawn



1. cub



2. calf



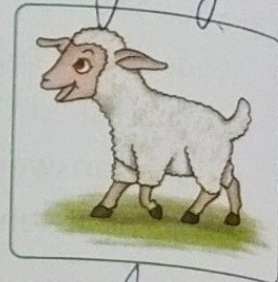
3. joey



4. kitten



5. fawn



6. lamb

G. Write a question for each of these answers with the words given in the brackets. Add a question mark.

1. He reached Delhi yesterday. (when did)

When did he reach Delhi?

2. Rivu told Ria his secret. (who told)

Who told Ria his secret?

3. She could not sleep because it was very hot. (why could she)

Why could she not sleep?

4. Maya ate rice, dal and vegetables for lunch. (what did)

What did Maya eat for lunch?

5. Satyajit Ray was a very good writer and he lived in Kolkata. (who was)

Who was Satyajit Ray?

Mastering the Skills

H. Given are some sets of jumbled sentences from the story. Write them correctly, using capital letters and full stops at the right places.

1. He could still swish it all around.
2. And the crocodile caught him by his little nose.
3. All elephants today have very long trunks because of the curious baby elephants.
4. There was a time when the nose of an elephant was no bigger than a time boot when the nose of an ostrich was just as big.
5. He asked the ostrich why her tail feathers grew bigger than a boot.

Learning the Language

The words **am**, **is**, **are**, **was**, **were**, **has** and **have** are verbs.

We use **am** with I.

For example: I **am** an Indian.

We use **is** with one person, place, animal or thing.

For example: Ravi **is** an Indian boy.

We use **are** with more than one person, place, animal or thing.

For example: We **are** Indians.

I. Fill in the blanks. Choose the correct word from the brackets.

1. My parents are in the office. (am/is/are)
2. I am packing my bag for school. (am/is/are)
3. These books are new. (am/is/are)
4. Am I going out with you tomorrow? (Am/Is/Are)
5. The children are running around the park. (am/is/are)
6. Tina and Sheena are friends. (am/is/are)

The words **was** and **were** are also verbs. We use them when we talk about something that has already happened.

We use **was** with one person, place, animal or thing.

For example: He **was** having a good time at the party.

We use **were** with more than one person, place, animal or thing.

For example: Rama and Raj **were** in Delhi last year.

J. Fill in the blanks with **was** or **were**.

1. After the long trek, my legs were aching.
2. Satish was not very good at drawing when he was young.
3. Ashish and Rahim were classmates last year.
4. When the team lost, the team members were very sad.
5. The little boy was looking for his mother.

Has and **have** are also verbs.

We use **have** only with I, we, they and you.

For example: I **have** a pencil.

We use **has** with one person, animal, place or thing.

For example: It **has** a small tail.

K. Fill in the blanks with **has** or **have**.

1. The dog has a fluffy tail.
2. Do you have a dog at home?
3. I have a pet cat named Kitty.
4. Ayesha has a brown labrador.
5. Most dogs have black eyes.
6. We have a small library in our hometown.