

SAFARI

THEMED PROGRAMME



AIM

Head out on safari as you explore some of the most amazing animals in the animal kingdom. Play some games with zebras and lions, create your own elephant trunks and listen out for the sounds of safari.

ACTIVITIES

-  **Safari Helmet**
-  **Animal Safari**
-  **Zebra, Zebra, Lion**
-  **An Elephant's Trunk**
-  **The Sounds of Safari**
-  **An Elephant Never Forgets**

SAFARI

» INTRODUCTION

A safari is a trip to go and look for animals in their natural environment. The Swahili-speaking peoples of Africa use the word “safari” to refer to a long journey.

Most safaris take place in East Africa, however you can also go on safari in other countries such as Australia, Brazil and India.

The most popular animals to see on safari include lions, elephants, hippos, zebras, giraffes and more.

? DID YOU KNOW?

- An elephant's ear is roughly 1 metre in diameter. That's bigger than most three-year-old children!
- Lions sleep for 20 hours a day.
- Giraffe tongues are blue.
- The hippo is one of Africa's most deadly animals.
- Elephant babies are often seen sucking their trunks, in the same way that a human baby might suck its thumb.



GET CREATIVE



15 MINUTES



PREPARATION
NEEDED

GET CREATIVE: ARTY & CRAFTY SAFARI HELMET

- 1 Cut a large hole in a paper plate, roughly the same diameter as the inside of the bowl (Leader preparation).
- 2 Push the bowl through the hole in the plate and fix the rim of the bowl and plate together using tape / glue. This will create a hat shape.
- 3 Using a sponge dab green paint over the outside of the hat. Once the whole hat is green, dab patches of brown paint onto the hat, to create a camouflage effect. Alternatively, the hat can be decorated using colouring pens, stickers, tissue paper squares and so on.
- 4 Punch two holes in opposite sides of the plate rim. Attach string to create a chin strap.

What you'll need:

- Paper Plate & Bowl
- Scissors
- Tape / Glue
- Green & Brown Paint
- Sponges
- String



GET
ADVENTUROUS



10 MINUTES



PREPARATION
NEEDED

GET ADVENTUROUS: EXPLORING THE WORLD AROUND ME ANIMAL SAFARI

Print out the Animal Safari activity sheet and cut out the animals. Alternatively use animal toys/figures. Hide the animals around your meeting space, but in visible places. Make some harder to spot than others. In small teams walk the groups through your meeting space (ideally multiple rooms) pretending you are on safari. How many of the animals can the group spot? Like a real safari you'll need excellent observation skills and be paying lots of attention to your surroundings.

The group that manages to spot the most animals at the end is the winner.



Use the downloadable tick sheet to keep track of which animals have been spotted on your safari.



GET ACTIVE



10 MINUTES



READY
TO GO

GET ACTIVE: PLAYING GAMES

ZEBRA, ZEBRA, LION

A safari twist on the classic game of duck, duck, goose.

Sit all the children in a large circle, with enough room to run around the outside. Nominate one child to be zebra. They stand on the outside of the circle and walk around, tapping people's heads and saying 'zebra'. After a short while they should tap one child on the head and say 'Lion'. Immediately the lion should get on their feet and chase the 'zebra' around the circle and tag them. The zebra should aim to make it back to where the lion was sat and sit in that place.

If the zebra is caught, then the zebra remains as the child on the outside. However, if the lion isn't able to catch the zebra, then the child who was the lion is now the new zebra. Continue playing, trying to ensure all children get to have a turn at being the zebra and lion.

Expand this activity by adapting other classic children's games such as sleeping lions, pin the tail on the donkey (elephant, lion etc) and what's the time Mr Wolf (Lion).



GET CREATIVE



15 MINUTES



PREPARATION
NEEDED

GET CREATIVE: ARTY & CRAFTY

AN ELEPHANT'S TRUNK

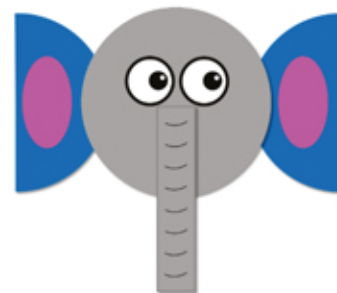


For this activity you can either use the downloadable template sheet or alternately cut the basic shapes from coloured paper. You'll need one large circle (face), two large semi circles (ears), two ovals (ear centres) and a long rectangle (trunk). The cutting of the shapes may be best completed by a leader beforehand.

- 1 Glue the semi-circles to opposite edges of the large circle, to make the elephant's ears. The flat edges of the semi-circles should be facing outwards.
- 2 Glue the two ovals into the centre of the semi-circles to make the inner ears. Draw some eyes onto the face or use large googly eyes.
- 3 Cut a slit into the centre of the large circle and push the elephant's trunk through this. Glue the end of the trunk to the back of the circle to fix into place.
- 4 Cut a straw to about 6cm long. Tape this to the underside of the trunk, with the ends of the straw either side of the slit.
- 5 Children will be able to gently blow their straw, with the air coming out underneath the trunk, making it blow around and move.

What you'll need:

- Elephant Template Sheet or Coloured Paper
- Scissors
- Glue & Tape
- Straw
- Colouring Pens





GET ACTIVE: PLAYING GAMES

THE SOUNDS OF SAFARI

Sit in a circle. One child should be chosen to be it and stand in the centre of the circle blindfolded. Once blindfolded, the child should be gently spun on the spot a few times, so they aren't aware who is sat where in the circle.

Nominate one of the children around the outside to make an animal sound which you'd find on safari (Lion's roar, elephant's trumpet, rhino grunt etc). Once the animal sound has been made, the person in the middle should try to guess who made the noise. You could give up to three guesses if you're playing with a large group. Continue playing, with all children having an opportunity to be the person stood in the middle.


You could award points for correct guesses. Where a guess isn't successful the point should be given to the child who made the noise for doing a good job at disguising themselves.

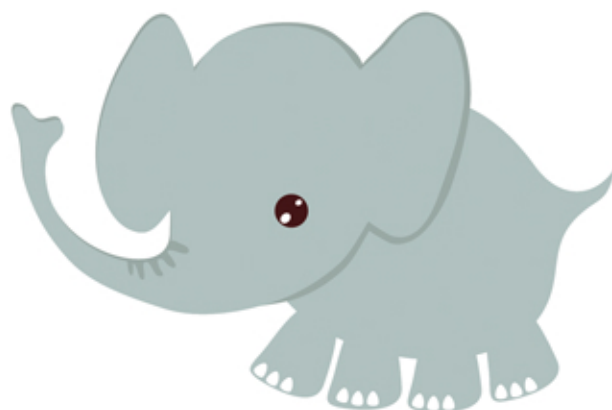


GET INTO THE BIBLE: UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIAN VALUES

AN ELEPHANT NEVER FORGETS

- 1 Start by playing a memory game. This could be pairs (using safari animal pictures), the tray game (tray of items, secretly remove one and see who can spot it) or something similar. Use the activity to see how good the group's memories are. Trying to remember lots of things can be difficult!
- 2 Did you know that an elephant has a really good memory? They actually have the largest brain of any land mammal and that includes us humans! Elephants can recognise each other, can remember where to find food and watering holes as well as knowing how to navigate the areas they live in. The part of the brain that stores their memories is one of the best. That's why the saying 'An elephant never forgets' exists.
- 3 Having a good memory, like an elephant, can be a good thing such as for remembering your times tables. However sometimes a good memory can make forgiving people really difficult.
- 4 Who can remember a time when a friend said a mean thing to them or wasn't very nice? Were you able to forgive them and forget about it? In the Bible it tells us that we should forgive others when they do something wrong, in the same way that God forgives us when we do things wrong. We shouldn't be like elephants and remember everything, but instead be like God and agree to forgive and forget, so we can carry on being friends with those around us.
- 5 Finish in prayer, thanking God that he forgives and forgets when we do wrong and ask for his strength to do the same with our friends and family.

 **'When you are praying, and you remember that you are angry with another person about something, then forgive them. If you do this, then your Father in heaven will also forgive your sins.'**
Mark 11 v 25



ANIMAL SAFARI

How many of the below animals can you find on your safari? Tick them off as you find them.

☐

Lion

☐

Giraffe

☐

Elephant

☐

Rhino

☐

Zebra

☐

Flamingo

☐

Hippo

☐

Crocodile

☐

Bison

☐

Buffalo

☐

Tiger

☐

Leopard



