



WILD CLASSROOM

SPECIES ABCs

K-2 EDUCATOR GUIDE

Aa



A is for **African Elephant**

African elephants are the largest land animals on Earth.



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Objectives:

- Students will learn more about species.
- Vocabulary related to animals and plants will be enhanced.
- Learners will understand how plants and animals survive.

Suggested uses: The Species ABCs can be used in a variety of ways; here are some examples:

- **Visuals:** Hang each printout around your classroom or learning area to provide an interesting and engaging visual for students.
 - **Reading activity:** Have learners flip through printouts of each letter and read each fact independently or with a partner.
 - **Listening activity:** Have the students listen to an adult read each fact aloud (and repeat the names of the animals back to them).
 - **Pair-share:** Assign each person a letter to read and learn from before sharing with others. Challenge participants to compare similarities and differences between each of their species (e.g., where they live, what they eat, what they look like).
 - **Craft:** Have learners create a flashcard with their own letter (possibly using the first letter of their first or last name or nickname) and with a new animal that wasn't included in the flashcards that begins with that letter. Have them include a fact about that animal and/or a fact about themselves!
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- **Active independent activity:** Temporarily tape the printouts around the room and then ask students to travel to each one and note which animal(s) they know the most about, which animal(s) they know the least about, and which are their favorite animal(s).
- **Active group activity:** Print out a set of double-sided flashcards with the images on one side and facts on the back. Using half the number of flashcards as there are total participants, cut each flashcard into several pieces. Divide the pieces from each flashcard between two participants (without them knowing who has the other pieces of their flashcard). Have participants find their match with the same flashcard by aligning their pieces. Once everyone has located their match, they can read and discuss the facts together. Also, consider hosting a game of charades to have students act out the species and have other students try to identify them.
- **Student questions:** Use the following questions to hold a group discussion that reflects on what students have learned from the Species ABCs:
 - ❑ Do any of the animals have anything in common? How are they different?
 - ❑ Name examples of things that animals need to survive.
 - ❑ Can an animal make changes to its environment to better meet its needs? Give one example of an animal that changes its surroundings and how that helps.
 - ❑ What determines where an animal lives? Name several different types of habitats where animals can be found and why certain animals would want to live there.
 - ❑ Do any of the animals depend on each other? Which ones?



Additional resources about species and biodiversity:

[World Wildlife Fund webpage](#)

[Wild Classroom YouTube channel](#)

[Work Out Your Wild Side exercise challenge](#)

[Wildlife Arts and Crafts](#)

["The Bad Guys" SEL activity and puzzles](#)

[Find Your Inner Animal quiz](#)

