

# A SPECIAL SCHOOL

## A. PRE-READING

### ACTIVITY - 1

Say the names of some animals that live in the forest.

Say the names of some animals we keep in our houses.



Which animals do we use for carrying goods?

Which are the animals that require training?



Let's read an interesting topic about the training of baby elephants. The teacher reads the text aloud and students listen to the teacher.

## B. READING - I

Tamilnadu is a beautiful green state. It is in the south of India. It has mountains and valleys. It also has green forests. There are many rivers in Tamil Nadu.

One mountain range in Tamil Nadu is called Mudu Malai. At the feet of these mountains is a large plain. This plain is called Karagudi. Karagudi is a beautiful place. It is covered with thick forests.

The forests are full of trees. Karagudi forests always remain green. In the middle of one of the forests there is a river. The river is full of cool and clear water.

In Karagudi, there is a special school. It is special because it is not a school for children. Can you guess whom is this school meant for? It is a school for baby elephants! These baby elephants are kept here for training.

The school is near the river. Elephants love to play in the river. They bathe for hours and throw water on each other.

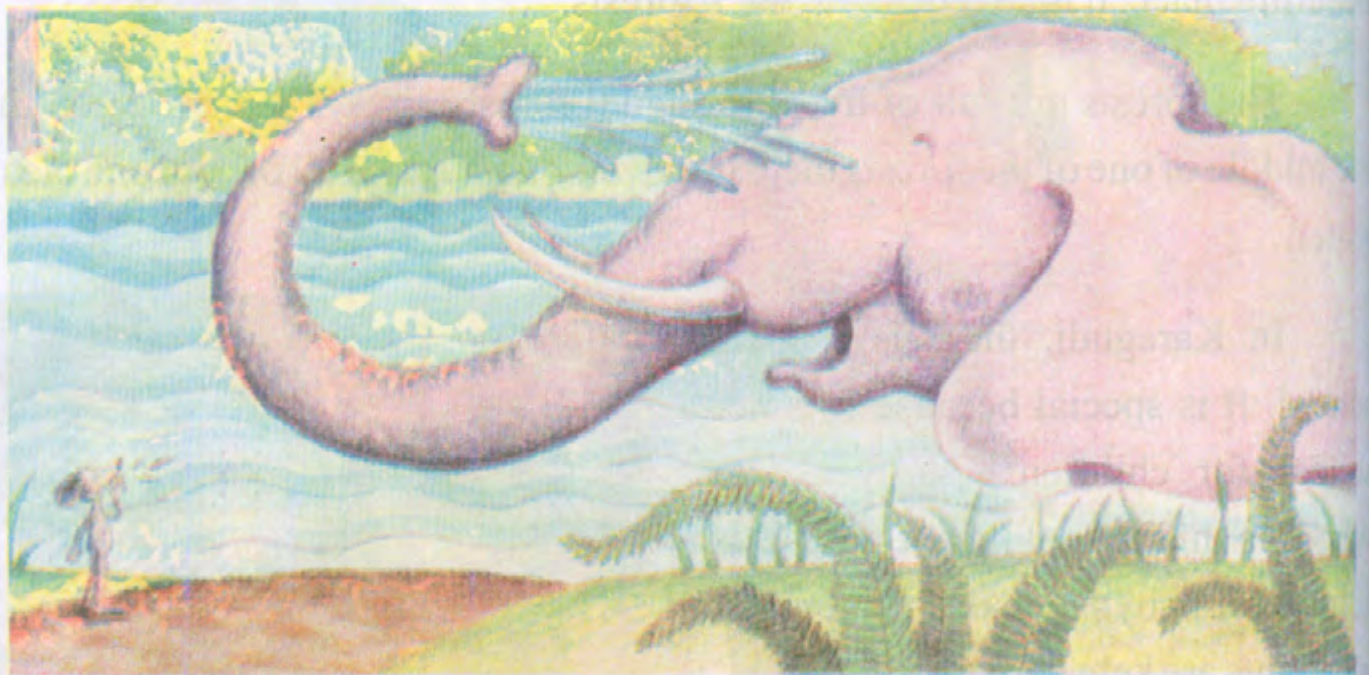




In place of teachers, the school has elephant trainers. The trainers know how to deal with the elephants. Baby elephants are like children, sometimes good and sometimes naughty.



Elephants love bananas. They also love sugarcane. That is why the trainers at the school train them with sugarcane. An elephant is taught how to salute. He has to learn to raise his trunk when asked to salute.



The trainer raises a sugarcane over the elephant's head. The elephant tries to catch it with his trunk. The minute it raises its trunk, the trainer says 'salaam'. After doing the same thing again and again, the elephant begins to understand. Now when the trainer says 'salaam', the elephant lifts up its trunk, even without the sugarcane.





## ACTIVITY-2

### Let's read and find facts.

Given below are statements. Write **T** in the box for the **True** statements and **F** for the **False** statements.

- (1) There are no valleys and mountains in Tamilnadu.
- (2) Mudu Malai is a mountain range.
- (3) Karagudi is a mountain range.
- (4) Karagudi is full of forests.
- (5) Special school in Karagudi is meant to train baby elephants.
- (6) Bananas are used to train elephants.

## ACTIVITY-3

### Let's read and understand

- (1) Why is Tamilnadu said a green state ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Why is Karagudi a beautiful place ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (3) What is the importance of special school in Karagudi ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Why is the special school located near a river ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (5) How are baby elephants like children ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (6) What do the trainers teach baby elephants ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (7) When does an elephant raise its trunk even without sugarcane ?  
\_\_\_\_\_





## ACTIVITY - 4

Choose the right word/expression given in the box to fill in the blanks in the following sentences.

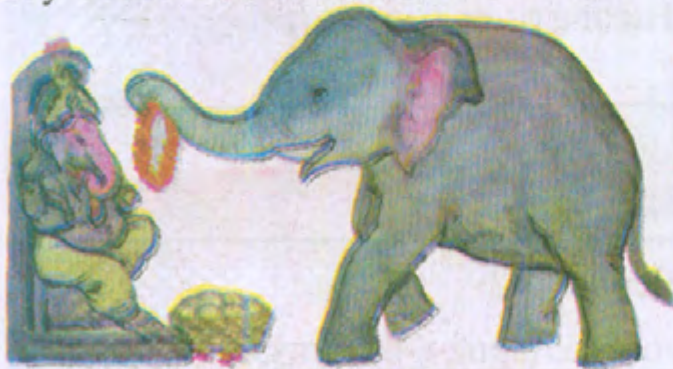
south, water, logs, thick forests, mountain range, naughty

- (i) Mudu Malai is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- (ii) Karagudi is covered with \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iii) Tamilnadu is in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iv) Elephants love to throw \_\_\_\_\_ on each other.
- (v) Baby elephants are sometimes \_\_\_\_\_.

## READING - II

Slowly the elephant learns to understand more words. It also learns to obey.

Elephants love to roll in water. To call them out of the water the trainer says 'Jo-Jo'. When they hear 'Jo-Jo', they come out of the water.



Elephants are even taught how to perform pooja in a temple. They learn to ring the bells. They offer flowers to the statues of the gods. When they do well, they get sweets and bananas!

The elephant school has a timetable like ours. The elephants are trained to follow the timetable. They learn, play and eat at fixed times.





Elephants learn to pull huge logs of wood. They are trained to work in a circus. They salute, ride bicycles, dance to music and perform many other tricks. Some elephants even act in films.

Elephants also learn to make elephant chains. One elephant holds the tail of the other with its trunk. A long elephant chain is formed.



### ACTIVITY - 5

### Let's read and understand

Answer these questions.

(1) Why does the trainer say 'Jo-jo' ?

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(2) When is an elephant given sweets and bananas ?

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(3) What do elephants perform in a circus ?

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(4) How do they learn to perform these ?

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(5) What is an elephant chain ?

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## ACTIVITY – 6

Let's read between the lines

Answer these questions.

- (1) Why are elephants taught to pull huge logs of wood?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (2) How is the special school similar to our normal school?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (3) Why is an elephant given bananas?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Why is the school in Karagudi a special one?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (5) How are elephants useful for man?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## ACTIVITY – 7

Let's talk

Form pairs and practise the following dialogues.

- Ramesh** – Do you like to visit the zoo at Nandankanan?
- Kailash** – Yes, I do.
- Ramesh** – Have you ever visited Nandankanan?
- Kailash** – Yes, I have visited it twice.
- Ramesh** – Which animals did you see there?
- Kailash** – I saw tigers, lions, elephants, zebras etc.
- Ramesh** – Didn't you see any bird there?
- Kailash** – Yes, I did. I was happy to see elephants there.
- Ramesh** – Why do you like elephants?
- Kailash** – They are very big. They look beautiful when they walk with their baby elephants.





## ACTIVITY-8

### Let's learn words

a) Fill in the blanks choosing the correct words from the brackets.

(make, learn, follow, offer, ring)

- (i) After doing something again and again the elephants \_\_\_\_\_ to understand.
- (ii) They learn to \_\_\_\_\_ bells.
- (iii) They \_\_\_\_\_ flowers to the statues of gods.
- (iv) The elephants learn to \_\_\_\_\_ elephants chains.
- (v) They are trained to \_\_\_\_\_ the time-table.

b) Read the lesson carefully and fill in the blanks to make words. The hints are given below.

(i) Which is something different not ordinary

S		E		I		L
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(ii) Given for someone's good work

R		W		R	
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(iii) Think about something to know what it is

G		E	S	
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(iv) An elephant uses it for taking food and lifting water etc.

T		U		K
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(v) To give something to someone

O		F		R
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## ACTIVITY-9

### Let's Write

Write six sentences using the hints given. The first sentence has been written for you.

Hints:

Name of the baby elephant – Nandan

Age - 2 years old





Height	- 1 metre
Part of the body	- trunk
Birth place	- Nandankanan
Food	- leaves, fruit, paddy, wheat
Work	- carries goods



### Space for Writing

The name of the baby elephant is Nandan .

It's \_\_\_\_\_

It's \_\_\_\_\_

It has \_\_\_\_\_

It's \_\_\_\_\_

It eats \_\_\_\_\_

It \_\_\_\_\_

### ACTIVITY – 10

Write what the elephants do in the special school.

The first one is done for you and the clues are given to complete the task.

The elephant perform pooja in the temple.

They offer \_\_\_\_\_

They follow \_\_\_\_\_

They salute \_\_\_\_\_

They make \_\_\_\_\_

They take part \_\_\_\_\_





## ACTIVITY – 11

### Let's learn language

Action words are known as verbs. Generally they have three forms i.e. present, past and past participle. The following action words are written in three forms. Look at the three forms of the following action words.

#### Read and learn them.

Present Form	Past Form	Past Participle form
Go	went	gone
Do	did	done
Know	knew	known
Keep	kept	kept
Love	loved	loved
Like	liked	liked
Learn	learned	learnt
Win	won	won
Put	put	put

Now fill in the blanks with the correct form of the action words (verbs) given in the brackets.

- i) The sky has \_\_\_\_\_ (become) dark.
- ii) Anuradha \_\_\_\_\_ (keep) the books in the shelf yesterday.
- iii) Ganesh \_\_\_\_\_ (like) story books.
- iv) Pradeep never \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) a lie .
- v) Gopal \_\_\_\_\_ (win) a prize on the Annual Sports Day.





