

Just then, the Tiger Train drove through a tunnel. The sunlight was not shining through the windows, so the stripes disappeared from the suitcase. The suitcase did not have stripes now. The suitcase puzzled Mr. Dog.

“Oh!” said Dr. Kangaroo. “Those shadows fooled us. The sunlight was making those shadows.”



“I give up,” said Mr. Dog. “We will never find my suitcase! Let’s go back to our seats.”

“Okay, maybe we can find another clue on the way back,” said Dr. Kangaroo.

When Mr. Dog got to his seat, it was time for dinner. Mrs. Zebra stood up and left for the dining car. There on her empty seat was Mr. Dog’s very own suitcase.





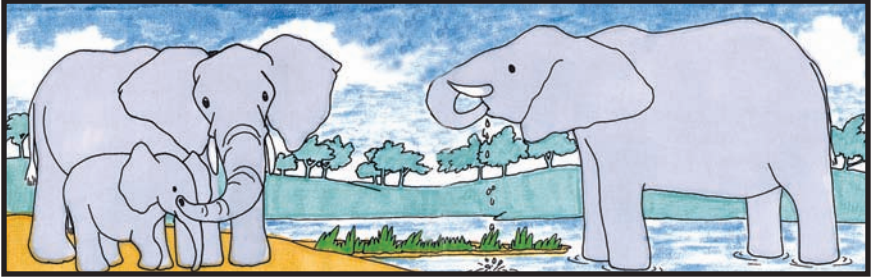
“Surprise!” shouted Mr. Dog. “There is no more mystery about my suitcase. When I moved, I forgot to move my suitcase!”

Dr. Kangaroo and everybody clapped their hands and said, “We’re very happy for you.”

“Thank you for helping me,” said Mr. Dog. “Now I can use my ice skates during my vacation.”

Then all the animals went to the dining car and ate their dinner. Soon, they would be at the mountains, and they would have a wonderful vacation.

# Elephants



The elephant family tree is over 55 million years old. Elephants are descendants of the giants of the past. They are called *Proboscidea* (*prah-bah-sid-ee-ah*), which means “long nose.” Once, there were over 350 different kinds of elephants on the earth. Today, there are only two kinds of elephants: African elephants and Indian, or Asian, elephants. The African elephant lives in the central part of Africa and is larger than the Asian elephant. In fact, the African elephant is the largest land animal on Earth.

Female elephants are called *cows*. The female elephants live together in a family, and they stay together for most of their lives. Some families have eleven or twelve elephants. Other families may be larger. Often the families stay together in herds and travel around the land. The oldest female elephant is the leader of the family.

Male elephants are called *bulls*. Bulls leave their families when they are about fourteen years old.

The young bulls join the older male elephants and travel in very large herds. They will travel together for awhile, and then a bull may join a different herd. The bulls do not stay together in a family like the female elephants do.

Elephants have very interesting lives. Very early each morning, they wake up and look for their morning food. Then, the herd of elephants follows their leader. They travel to a spot where they can find water. As the sun begins to rise, the elephants enjoy drinking and playing in the water. They take a bath in the water hole or spray themselves every day. Sometimes, the elephants swim underwater. They hold their trunks up above the water so they can get oxygen while they are swimming underwater. Elephants love to roll in muddy swamps to protect their skin. When the elephants finish their early morning baths, they rest for awhile in the shade of trees. Then, it is time to travel and eat again.

Elephants eat about 300 pounds of food each day. They spend most of their day eating grass, leaves, and bark from the trees. They have very few teeth to help them chew their food, but their teeth are very large and very strong. One tooth is twelve inches long and weighs about eight pounds. These teeth are called tusks. When an elephant loses a tusk, a new one will replace it. An elephant can grow as many as six sets of tusks.

Elephants talk to each other. They use their trunks to greet each other. They wave their ears and put their heads up when they are upset. When two elephants meet, they cross trunks or touch their cheeks with their trunks. When an elephant

puts its trunk in another elephant's ear or mouth, it is saying hello. When a bull's ears are out and his head is high, it means that the elephant is upset. A high, shrieking sound means that there is danger. Sometimes, the shrieking sound means that an elephant is lost and cannot find its herd. Cows call their cubs with low humming sounds.

There are only a few of the gray giants from the past living on Earth today. Many of the elephants have been killed. Some elephants have died because there are not enough places for them to live and eat. Some elephants live in a zoo and some travel with circuses, but the best place for elephants is in the wild with their families.