

# A Baby Elephant in the Wild

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

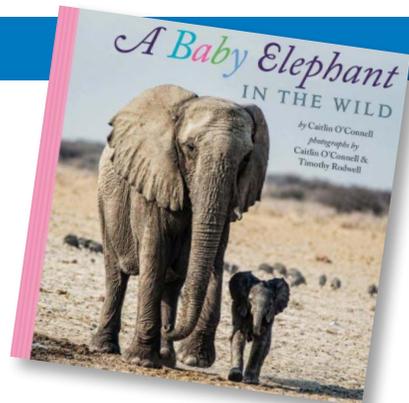
**Themes:** Nature, Survival, Family

**Book Brief:** Liza is a baby elephant born in the Namibian desert. Travel with Liza and her family as they search for food and water. The stunning photographs will make you feel like part of the herd!

**Author:**  
Caitlin O'Connell

**Photographers:**  
Caitlin O'Connell and  
Timothy Rodwell

**Content  
Connections:**  
Science,  
Geography,  
Social Studies



## TIME TO READ!

**The Cover:** Based on the title and cover picture, do you think this book is fiction or nonfiction? Why? What do you think we will learn about as we read?

**The Pictures:** Flip briefly through the pictures. Based on the photographs, in what area of “the wild” do elephants live? Have students describe what they see and predict what information they may learn on each page.

**Prior Knowledge:** What do you know about elephants? Make a KWL (Know, Want to Know, Learned) chart on the board and fill out the first two columns as a group.

**Vocabulary:** matriarch, poachers, drought

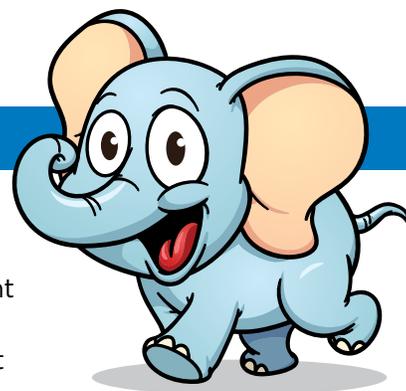
**Purpose for Reading:** As we read today, pay close attention to the environment in which elephants live and how that influences their behavior and lifestyle.

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why do you think newborn elephants have so much hair?
- ◆ How does flapping their ears help keep the elephants cool?
- ◆ What does Liza use her trunk to do? What body part would you use to do these same things?
- ◆ How does mud protect Liza's skin?

- ◆ In what ways are Liza's family members important to her?
- ◆ Why is it important for Liza to be with other young elephants?
- ◆ What animals hunt elephants? What else poses a threat to Liza and her family members?



## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** How have elephants adapted to the environment in which they live? Give specific examples from the book. As a class, fill in the “Learned” column in the KWL chart with the new information you learned about elephants.

**Extending Our Thinking:** Humans adapt to their environments, too! With a partner, try to think of at least 3 ways the area you live in affects your behavior. (Hint: think about the kind of clothes you wear and the building you live in.) Share your answers with the class.

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is  
Fundamental