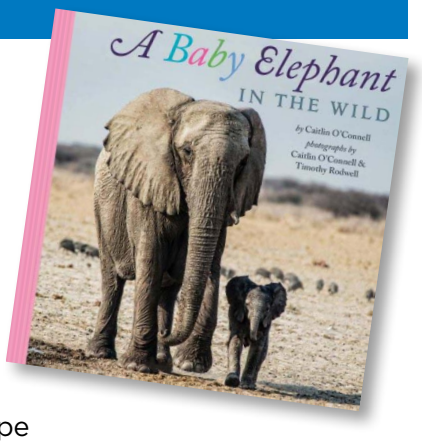
A Baby Elephant in the Wild

RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

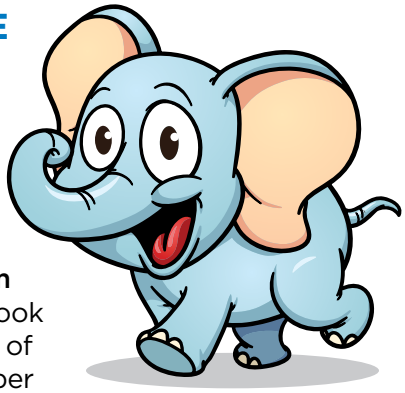
STEAM-THEMES: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH



SCIENCE, WRITING
CHARTING IT OUT

With a partner, use the information in the book to make a chart or Venn diagram to compare elephants and people. Include information on what we look like, where we live, how we behave, and how we interact with family and friends. Many elephants are still killed every year for the ivory in their tusks, which is very valuable. Based on what you've learned about elephants, do you think it's important to protect them? Why or why not? Use your comparison chart to support your answer.

TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE, ART, WRITING
HUMAN NATURE



You've read a book all about Liza the elephant—now make a book all about humans for Liza to read! Go to **www.storyjumper.com** and make an online book about a day in the life of a human kid. Remember to write your story as if you were writing for Liza. What do you do every day that might seem strange to an elephant? Explain how important things like family, friends, and school are. How do humans travel around? How do they communicate? What dangers do they face?

ENGINEERING, SCIENCE
ADAPTATION STATION

You want to build a house in the Namibian desert so you can live close to Liza and her family. Where is Namibia? What is Namibia like? What kind of special adaptations would your house need to keep you cool and comfortable? What if you wanted a grassy lawn? How would you defend your home from dangerous predators? Design a house that would keep you safe and happy. Label and explain your drawing.

ART, SCIENCE, ENGINEERING
GOOD VIBRATIONS

Materials:
shoebox or tissue box, rubber bands, tape

Elephants communicate using low-pitched calls that other elephants can feel vibrate through the ground. Explore vibration by making a shoebox guitar. Cut a hole in the center of the lid. Stretch five rubber bands across the lid; tape into place. Allow students to take turns strumming and placing their hands on the side of the box to feel the vibrations. Why do the rubber bands make noise when plucked?

MATH, SCIENCE
BABY ELEPHANT WALK

Liza learns to walk within hours of being born. How long does it usually take a human baby to learn to walk? What about a dog? Pick at least 5 animals and research to find out how long it takes them to walk. Which animal takes the shortest amount of time? Longest? What is the difference, in days, between the quickest and slowest animals? Show your results on a graph or build a model. Why do you think some animals are much slower to walk than others?

Reading Is Fundamental