

## LESSON 3.3

## SKIM AND SCOOP ACTIVATOR

## PASSAGE A

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Elephants are huge! They are the largest land animal alive on earth, standing over 10 feet tall and weighing up to 5,000 pounds. They have large skulls, large teeth (known as tusks), and a really long nose called a trunk. Elephants have the biggest babies, too. A baby elephant is 250 pounds when it is born.

The elephant's trunk is amazing. Elephants use their trunks to do almost everything. They use their trunks for breathing, smelling, making sounds, touching objects, or picking them up. There are 150,000 muscles in the trunk, making it very flexible and strong. Elephants can use their trunk for delicate tasks, like wiping their eyes, and strong jobs, such as lifting over 300 pounds.

Elephants can talk with each other in many ways. They use nonverbal means, such as a gentle touch with a trunk or a strong push with tusks. Elephants can also produce an amazing range of vocal noises. You may have heard an elephant's loud trumpet call. However, elephants can also make sounds so low that humans cannot hear them. Elephants can use these low sounds to talk to other elephants who may be miles away.

Even though elephants are amazing creatures, they may not be around for long. The number of elephants is shrinking every day. In the past 40 years, the number of elephants in Africa has shrunk from more than one million to less than half a million. Elephants in Asia are also disappearing. There are only 50,000 elephants left in Asia. Elephants are dying out because people hunt them and their habitat is shrinking. Hopefully, we will learn how to protect the elephant because they are amazing animals.

## LESSON 3.3

## SKIM AND SCOOP

## PASSAGE B

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

People love penguins. As penguins cannot fly, they swim through the ocean looking for fish to eat. Fish are a favorite food of most penguins, but they will also eat squid and shrimp. As penguins are such good swimmers, they can easily catch food in their beaks.

There are twenty kinds of penguins in the world, but they all live in the Southern Hemisphere. Emperor penguins are the largest kind of penguin. They can be more than 3 feet tall and weigh more than 35 pounds. The smallest penguin is the Fairy penguin. It is only 16 inches tall and weighs only 2 pounds.

People think penguins only live in the snow, but that is not true. Many penguins do live in cold places like Antarctica, but there are lots of penguins who live in warmer places like Australia or the Galapagos Islands. As long as there is cold water full of fish, penguins are happy to live there!