

# Walk with the Herd



**Life-size elephant sculptures are traveling around the United States, raising support for wildlife.**

**LEXILE:** 1110L

**SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD:** Earth and Human Activity

**COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS:** RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.7, W.6-8.7

## ENGAGE THE READER

Have students think of some animals they've seen in their community. These could be anything from insects to large mammals. Ask students to name an animal that comes to mind, and to describe their reaction to seeing that animal. Do they like seeing it? Are they annoyed by it? Explain that in some places in India, elephants are common backyard animals. Ask students how they'd feel about that, before reading the cover story.

## QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- What do you think would be the most challenging thing about living among elephants?
- What are the goals of *The Great Elephant Migration*? Do you imagine that the elephant sculptures are having the intended impact? Explain.
- Why is it important to coexist with nature? What could happen if humans didn't try to coexist with it?

## EXTEND LEARNING

Ask the class: What does it mean to coexist with something? Ask volunteers. Then ask students for examples of how people can coexist with animals. Explain that students will be considering ways in which human developments have affected animals that live in their community. As a class, make a list of some human developments such as roads, swimming pools, and non-native landscaping that impact wildlife. Have students research and come up with solutions that would allow animals to live safely with these developments.

To extend this lesson, you can have students work to implement one or more of their solutions. Have the class consider which would be easiest for individuals to implement, and which would need support from local government. Students may plant native trees, add decals to windows to prevent birds from striking them, or write letters to their city council to suggest a change in their community.

## COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.

To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

**1. B** (RI.8) **2. C** (RI.4) **3. D** (RI.1) **4. C** (RI.3) **5. A** (RI.1)

**6. B** (RI.9) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.2)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Use this week's cover story, "Walk with the Herd," to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, you may use the back of this page.

<p><b>1.</b> What does the quote in paragraph 2 tell you about the <i>Great Elephant Migration</i> project?</p> <p><b>A.</b> People are allowed to touch the elephants.</p> <p><b>B.</b> One goal of the project is for people to consider what it's like to live among elephants.</p> <p><b>C.</b> The project raises money for wildlife conservation.</p> <p><b>D.</b> A herd of elephants could take over the busy streets of Manhattan.</p>	<p><b>4.</b> Which happens first?</p> <p><b>A.</b> The sculptures are created by artisans with the Real Elephant Collective.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Money is donated to conservation projects around the world.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Lantana is removed from the ground and dried.</p> <p><b>D.</b> The art is installed around the world.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> What is meant by "they've stomped across the pavement in New York City"?</p> <p><b>A.</b> Elephants are running wild in New York City.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Elephants are indigenous to New York.</p> <p><b>C.</b> <i>The Great Migration</i> project was installed in New York City.</p> <p><b>D.</b> The sculptures can move on their own.</p>	<p><b>5.</b> What's the main problem with lantana?</p> <p><b>A.</b> It's an invasive shrub that's destroying wild habitats across India.</p> <p><b>B.</b> It's difficult to remove from the ground.</p> <p><b>C.</b> It's difficult to work with as an art material.</p> <p><b>D.</b> There's no way to push back against its spread.</p>
<p><b>3.</b> What does the Real Elephant Collective do?</p> <p><b>A.</b> studies elephants</p> <p><b>B.</b> creates elephant sculptures</p> <p><b>C.</b> turns lantana into art</p> <p><b>D.</b> all of the above</p>	<p><b>6.</b> According to the text, what do Fiona Humphrey and Tarsh Thekaekara agree about?</p> <p><b>A.</b> Lantana is dangerous for wild habitats.</p> <p><b>B.</b> Learning to live alongside animals like elephants is important.</p> <p><b>C.</b> Elephants should live in everyone's backyard.</p> <p><b>D.</b> It's important to support Indigenous-focused organizations.</p>

**7.** The *Great Migration* project uses art to spread awareness and solve a problem. Think of another way art can be used to solve a problem. Explain your idea.

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