

A steam locomotive is pulling a train through a desert landscape. The train is moving away from the viewer, leaving a trail of dark smoke. The tracks are made of gravel and steel rails, leading into the distance. In the background, there are solar panels and utility poles. The sky is clear and blue.

Making Tracks

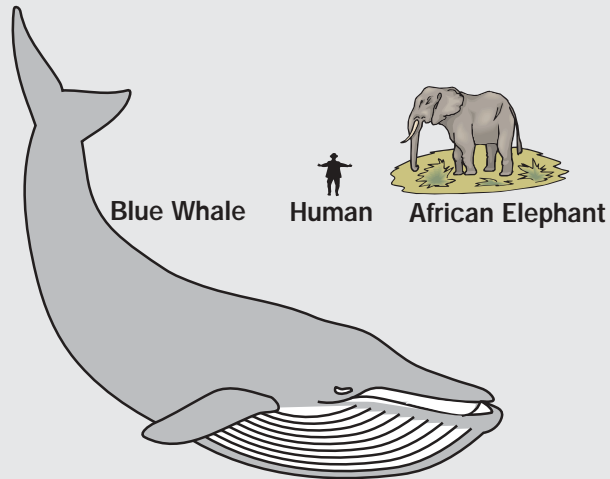
**Year 5
2003**

Elephants

Size and Physical Features

Elephants are the largest living land animals. An elephant keeps growing all through its life. The bigger an elephant is, the older it is.

How big are elephants?

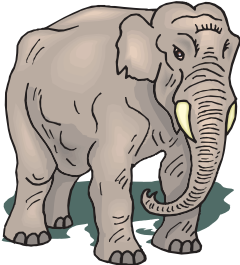
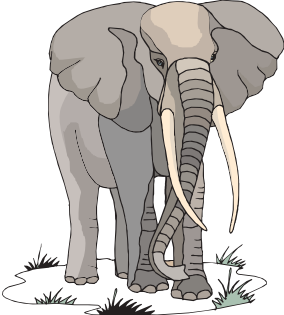


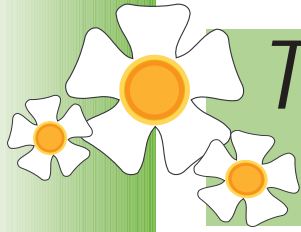
These pictures are drawn to scale. They show that the elephant is much bigger than a human, but much smaller than the largest living animal, the blue whale.

Once there were many types of elephants.

Now only two species of elephant are left on Earth: the African Elephant and the Asian Elephant.

Of the two, the African Elephant is by far the larger.

Asian Elephant	African Elephant
	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• small ears• weighs about 5000 kg• males have tusks• 19 pairs of ribs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• large ears• weighs about 6000 kg• males and females have tusks• 21 pairs of ribs



The Day Grandma Came to Stay



Ever since Aunty Nina's letter came last week our house has been in a real mess.



Dad's got cans of paint and bits of wood all over the place, and Mum sits up all night sewing hundreds of little white daisies that she's going to stick together for a bedspread.



With all the fuss that's going on you'd think the Queen was coming to stay with us. But it's nothing as exciting as that — it's just that my Grandma is coming over from Italy. Aunty Nina says she needs a holiday.



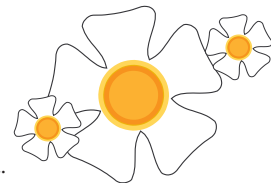
Mum and Dad hardly talk to me any more. They just scream grumpy things like, "Don't put your hands on that wall, Lucy, the paint's still wet," or "Keep out of the way, you'll get your fingers sawn off!"



If I was covered all over with measles spots **they** wouldn't notice. I thought of dyeing my hair green and making it stick out in spikes like a Dracoid from planet Zepha, but they'd be too busy even to look. So I might as well be a ghost, because ghosts don't eat dinner or need to have their spelling heard, or have to write out 50 times, "I must not play with skeletons in Maths class." (My friend Mrs Timmings gave me the skeleton. She's got all sorts of fantastic stuff in her shop across the road.)



This extract is from *The Day Grandma Came to Stay* by Diana Kidd.



Power Sources

The electricity we use at home is made in power stations.
Most burn coal, oil or use nuclear fuel to make heat.



In a coal-fired power station, burning coal heats water to make steam. The steam spins the blades of a machine called a turbine. This turns a large magnet inside coils of wire, which generates electricity.

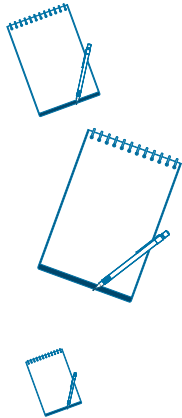


Solar cells can change sunlight directly into electricity. Large panels of solar cells can use the Sun's energy to power satellites that orbit the Earth.



Burning fuels can pollute the Earth's atmosphere. Other ways of making electricity include using the force of falling water to spin turbines in hydroelectric power stations or using moving air in wind generators. Electricity is sent around the country along a network of wires held up by steel towers called pylons. In towns and cities, the electricity flows along underground cables. Electricity is reduced to a lower voltage by a transformer before it enters buildings.

I Can't Write No Pretty Poem

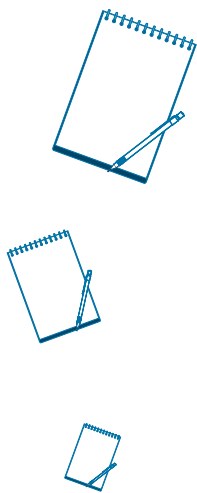


For almost half an hour Mrs Scott stood at the front of the room, reading poems and talking about the lives of the great poets. Geraldine drew more houses and designs for curtains.

“So for those who haven’t done their homework, try it now,” Mrs Scott said. “Try expressing what it is like to be ... to be alive in this ... this glorious world.”

“Oh, brother,” Geraldine muttered to herself as Mrs Scott moved up and down the aisles again, waving her hands and leaning over the student’s shoulders and saying, “That’s nice,” or “Keep trying.” Finally she came to Geraldine’s desk and stopped, looking down at her.

“I can’t write a poem,” Geraldine said flatly, before she even realised she was going to speak at all. She said it very loudly and the whole class looked up.



“And why not?” Mrs Scott asked, looking hurt. “I can’t write a poem, Mrs Scott, because nothing lovely’s been happening in my life. I haven’t seen a flower since Mother’s Day, and the sun don’t even shine on my side of the street. No robins come sing on my window sill.”

“Just the rain comes”, she went on, “and the bills come and the men to move out our furniture. I’m sorry but **I can’t write no pretty poem.**”

The Lane

He wasn't sure whether he had been asleep or not, or even whether he had slipped into a vivid dream. The room was dark except for a pool of moonlight beneath the window, the lace curtain stirring gently in the current of cool air. Beside him, **faintly luminous** in the darkness, the alarm clock ticked vigorously. In the next room his father rolled over in a swish of bed clothes, took a few deep breaths, and resumed his loud snoring.

Ross sat up, swinging his feet out of bed, down onto the lino. The cold touch of it **jolted** him and he heard again the distant voice that had penetrated the familiar night-time sounds of the cottage and woken him.

Padding across to the window, he pulled aside the lace curtain and looked out. The profusion of growth in the narrow garden below appeared almost black in the moonlight. The lane, bordered on both sides by wooden fences, was equally dark and **forbidding**. As far as he could judge, it was empty.

Super Spies

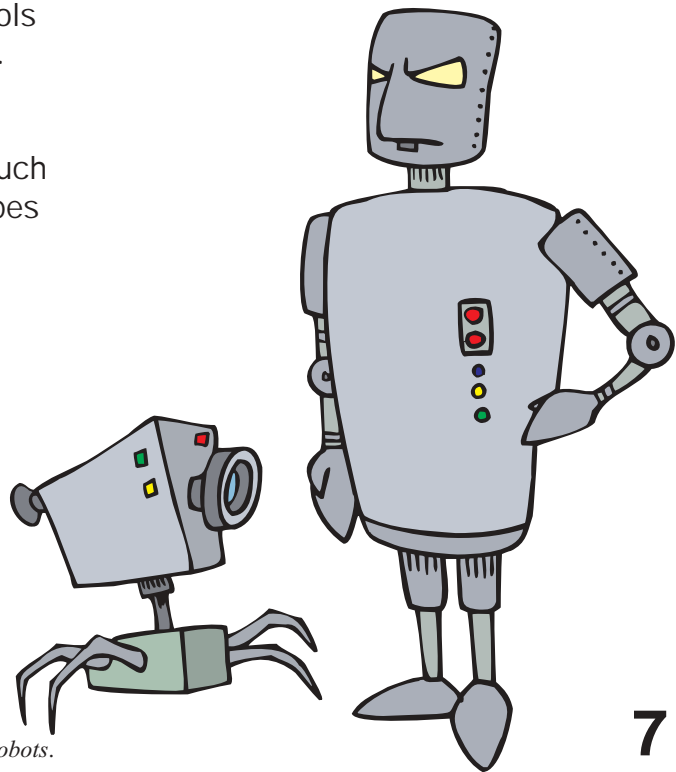
CYBER SNOOPERS

Single image (still) cameras and video cameras were the first machines used for surveillance, and are still popular for protecting warehouses, offices and homes. But robot spies have the edge in the spying game due to their mobility. Although most working robots have a fixed base and cannot move around, robot spies usually have means to transport themselves. This gives robots greater versatility so they can be used in many different situations.

The ability to concentrate for an unlimited time is one of the great advantages robot spies have over humans. Robots are not going to nod off on the job, slope off for a bite to eat or nip to the toilet. This makes them ideal for long patrols and tedious observation duties. Robots can also sneak into places that humans would find uncomfortable or impossible, such as under lorries, down large pipes or into ventilation shafts.

FEARLESS AGENTS

Reducing risk to humans is another major benefit of using robots. Sending a human into a hazardous area is dangerous. The target zone may be the scene of a natural disaster, or chemical or radiation spill. There may also be hostile humans to contend with. If discovered, a human spy could face injury – or even death. Robot spies may not be indestructible, but losing one is far less of a tragedy than losing a human spy. In addition, machines do not feel fear; they continue to send back information until they are seriously damaged or destroyed.



Year 5 – Writing

This task will take 40 minutes.

“I wish I could ...”

You may wish to travel, be famous or even turn into something else.

or

Your story could be about somebody else and what they wish for.

