

## The Rats and the Elephants

- Are we all of the same size?
- Can a smaller animal help a bigger animal?
- You're often asked to help your younger sisters and brothers. Do you help them?
- How do your younger brothers and sisters help you?

### Let's read

Long long ago, a group of rats lived happily in a forest. One day, a herd of elephants passed through that area in search of water. Many homes of the rats were destroyed under their big feet. Some rats were also killed. The king of rats, Mooshakraj



went to the king of elephants, Gajraj and requested him to take his herd through another route to the pond. He accepted the request and told the elephants to take the other way, without disturbing the rats.

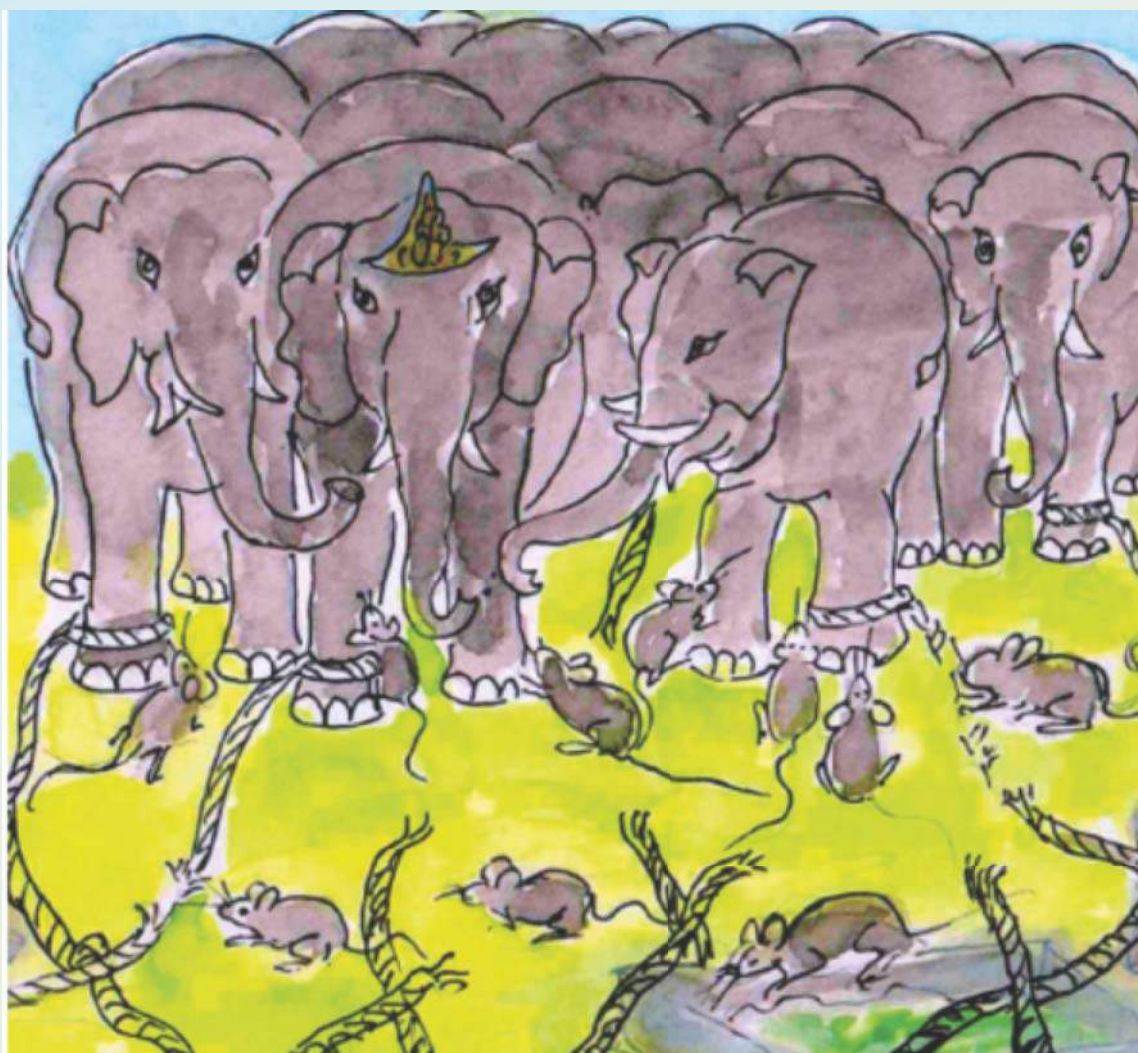
Mooshakraj was very happy and pleased with Gajraj. He thanked him and promised that the rats would always be ready to help the elephants if needed. Hearing this, the elephants in the herd laughed thinking how small rats could help big elephants.

After a few months....



One fine day, when the rats were playing, they heard loud shouts of elephants coming from the direction of the pond. Mooshakraj realized that the elephants were in some danger.





He asked some of the strong rats in his group to come along, and went in the direction of that sound.

Near the pond, they saw the elephants caught in the traps kept by some hunters. The rats quickly started biting the ropes with their sharp teeth. Soon the elephants were set free. They thanked the rats and also felt sorry for making fun of their small size.

## Glossary

herd	:	a group of animals of the same type; जानवरों का झुंड
destroy	:	to damage something so badly that it cannot be used; नष्ट कर देना
route	:	way; रास्ता
pleased	:	happy and satisfied; खुश
promised	:	to tell someone that you will certainly do something; वादा किया
shout	:	a loud cry of anger, fear or excitement; चिल्लाने की आवाज़
realize	:	to understand a situation; समझना
danger	:	possibility of something bad; खतरा
direction	:	the general position a person or thing moves or points towards; दिशा
trap	:	piece or equipment for catching animals; जाल या पिंजरा
hunter	:	a person who hunts wild animals; शिकारी

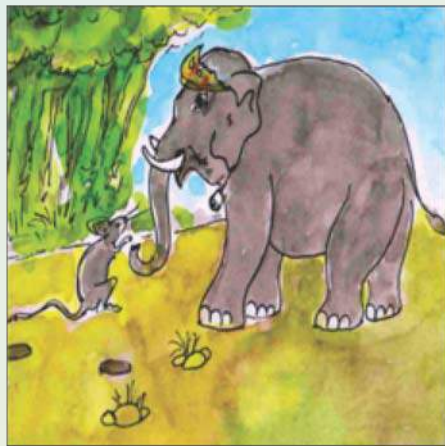
## Activity - I

### A. Write T for True and F for False statement.

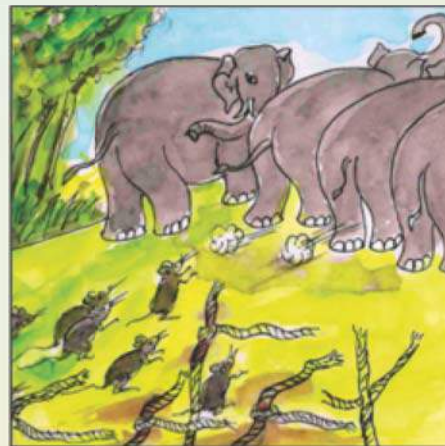
1. The elephants were very hungry. They were looking for food. ( )
2. The elephants destroyed the homes of the rats because they disliked them. ( )

3. The king of the rats promised to help the elephants when needed. ( )
4. The elephants were shouting for help. ( )

**B. Look at the following images and arrange them in correct order by numbering them.**



(.....)



(.....)



(.....)



(.....)



### C. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did the elephants pass through the area where the rats lived?
2. Why did the king of rats request the elephant chief to guide his herd through another route?
3. Why did the king of rats promise to help the elephants when needed?
4. Why were the elephants shouting one day?
5. How did the rats help the elephants?

### Activity – II

#### A. Complete the following sentences by choosing appropriate words from the box.

promise	trap	danger	herd
ready	pond	quickly	realized

1. Mahesh is always \_\_\_\_\_ to play cricket.
2. He \_\_\_\_\_ finished his homework and went out to play.
3. Yesterday, I saw a frog in the \_\_\_\_\_ behind my house.
4. My father \_\_\_\_\_ to take me to the fair today.
5. The fox was caught in a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Suman \_\_\_\_\_ her mistake and said sorry to Geeta.

7. I saw a \_\_\_\_\_ of sheep grazing in the field.
8. The lion was about to pounce on the zebra. But the zebra sensed the \_\_\_\_\_ and ran away.
- B. In the lesson, you came across two words — 'herd' and 'heard'. Did you notice what is special about them? They have different spellings and different meanings but they are spoken the same way. That is, there is no difference in their pronunciation. Such words are called 'homophones'.



A pair of homophones is given within the brackets for each of the sentences below. Select suitable word to complete the sentences.

1. Mr Jain has a daughter and a \_\_\_\_\_. (sun/son)
2. There are seven days in a \_\_\_\_\_. (weak/week)

3. I couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ what the teacher said. (here/hear)
4. The lion ran after a \_\_\_\_\_. (dear/deer)
5. My younger sister is \_\_\_\_\_ (too/two) years old.
6. Raju will \_\_\_\_\_ (by/buy/bye) a new cap from the fair.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ your name in bold letters. (right/write)
8. Sunil \_\_\_\_\_ how to ride a bicycle. (nose/knows)
9. India \_\_\_\_\_ the final match. (one/won)
10. Carrot is a \_\_\_\_\_ vegetable. (root/route)
11. There are two \_\_\_\_\_ of plants in my garden.  
(rows/rose)

### Activity – III

In the lesson you read,

'When the rats were playing, they heard loud shouts of elephants'.

This sentence talks about an action which took place when another action was in progress. Here are a few more examples, look at them and see how they are constructed.

1. When Sumit was doing his homework, his mother called him for dinner.
2. When we were playing football, Mohan hurt his leg.

**Now, complete the following sentences using correct form of verb, given in the bracket.**

1. When Monu was returning from school, he .....  
a ten-rupee note under a tree. (find)



2. When I was doing my homework, my friend .....  
to meet me. (come)
3. When the students were making a noise, the teacher  
..... them in a group activity. (engage)
4. When Meenu was feeling hungry, her mother  
..... *halwa* for her. (cook)
5. When my father was taking a bath, his mobile phone  
..... (ring)
6. When Nidhi was learning her lesson, her younger brother  
..... a glass of water for her. (bring)

#### Activity – IV

Form a pair with your partner. One of you will play the role of Mooshakraj and the other one will act as Gajraj. On the basis of the story you have read, pick up suitable lines from the box below and enact a dialogue between Mooshakraj and Gajraj.

Your teacher will help you.

- Dear Gajraj. I urgently need your help.
- Yes, Mooshakraj. Tell me how I can help you.
- You and your herd passed through this way to reach the pond this afternoon, and destroyed many of our homes under your big feet. What's more, some of our rats were also crushed to death.

- That's really sad to know Mooshakraj.
  - Please don't use this way, or we will suffer more death and destruction.
  - But dear Mooshakraj, if we don't drink water from the pond in this hot weather, we will all die of thirst.
  - Dear Gajraj, I've a solution. There's another route that leads to the pond. If you guide your herd through that route, the rats will be saved, and you can quench your thirst too.
  - That's a great idea Mooshakraj. I'll tell my elephants to take the other route.
- Thank you so much Gajraj. I'll not forget this kind gesture of yours.

### Activity – V

Write five sentences describing how you help your elder brothers and sisters.