

**Elephants and Bees Project** 



News2you October 20, 2025



# Introduce the Article and Key Vocabulary

Talk with students about what they will learn from the article. Introduce vocabulary to them using the descriptive teaching method.

**Example:** We will be talking about the Elephants and Bees Project that started in Kenya which is a country on east Africa. Dr. Lucy King wanted to help farmers keep elephants out of their crops, safely. She conducted experiments and found out that elephants are afraid of honeybees! She developed the Elephants and Bees Project in 2009 and continues today. The project builds fences around the farmers' crops and attach beehives to the fences. If the elephants come close or bump into the fence, the beehive is disturbed and the bees start to buzz, scaring off the elephants to go find food somewhere else and leave the farmer's crops alone. This is good for the farmers, the elephants, and also helps increase the bee population. The farmers can sell their crops and the honey made from the bees.

#### Read the Article While you TAAP

As you read the article with students, remember to TAAP: **T**alk about it, **A**sk a question, **A**cknowledge via response, and **P**ropel the conversation or Predict! (View the TAAP resource on the AAC Language Lab to learn more about the TAAP strategy!)

#### Sample TAAP words/phrases:

Talk About It	Ask Questions	Acknowledge via Response	Propel the Conversation or Predict
bees elephant crops farmers protect	What is the Elephant and Bees Project? Why is it important for farmers to keep the elephants out of their crops? Why are bees helpful to the farmer?	Nice work You're right Great answer You got this! Buzz, buzz, buzz Way to go	Tell me more What else? Let's see if you're right Let's find out



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# Talk About What you Learned

Summarize the article with students and talk about what they learned.

Ask open-ended questions to discuss what everyone thought, and to get them thinking about and reflecting about what they read.

#### Sample questions for discussion:

What did you learn about the Elephant and Bees Project? What was the problem? How was it solved? Why did the scientists conduct an experiment with the elephants and bees? Who was Dr. Lucy King? Why did she want to help the farmers keep the elephants out of their crops? How did the farmers protect their crops before the bees arrived? how do the farmers protect their crops from elephants with bees? What else did you learn about the country of Kenya?

# **Discussion for Comprehension**

After reading and summarizing the article with students, use descriptive testing to further discuss the students' understanding of the article. Pose questions in a way that allows the student to answer the question using any word on their device.



#### Sample Descriptive Testing Questions and responses:

Tell me about the Elephant and Bees Project?	How do the farmers keep the elephants away from their crops?	Why is this project so important to the farmers in Kenya?
<ul> <li>far away in Africa</li> <li>bees keep elephants away from farmer's crops (food)</li> <li>experiment to find out that elephants are afraid of bees</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>build fences with beehives</li> <li>when elephants come close bees buzz/noise</li> <li>they bump into fence</li> <li>bees scare them away</li> <li>elephants eat plants some place else</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>keep their crops</li> <li>hard work to grow food</li> <li>need food to live and earn money</li> <li>sell food and honey to live there</li> </ul>