

Fast Facts

- Trainers at a preserve in Thailand set up the Thai Elephant Orchestra. Six elephants learned to make music using gongs, drums and harmonicas.
- An elephant's trunk can suck up about 1.5 gallons of water at a time.

— World Almanac for Kids



Chatter Box

"It's great — she's a piece of home I get to take with me."
— Justin Bieber, when asked how he felt about being on the road with his mother, Pattie Mallette, on popeater.com



Try This

Slipper cookies

Surprise Mom with a pair of these comfy-looking cookie treats. Mom's heart will feel as warm and fuzzy as her favorite slippers when she lays eyes on these cute cookies.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 halves of an oval sandwich cookie
- 1 doughnut hole
- Frosting
- Pink decorators' gel
- Shredded coconut tinted with red food coloring



1. To make a pair, first separate the 2 halves of an oval sandwich cookie (we used a Cameo) and remove the filling with a butter knife.

2. Next, slice a doughnut hole into thirds. Coat the rounded sides of the 2 end pieces with frosting (you can eat the middle piece), then roll them in shredded coconut tinted with red food coloring to create a pair of fuzzy slipper tops.

3. Use a dab of frosting to stick each slipper top to a cookie sole, then adorn the edges of the cookies with pink decorators' gel stitching.

— Disney FamilyFun magazine



DREW FELLMAN/WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC.

This little elephant, Eve, featured in the film "Born to be Wild 3D," is the first wild-born calf of Emily, an elephant that was rescued and rehabilitated by Dame Daphne Sheldrick 17 years ago.

'BORN TO BE WILD'

Embark on an unforgettable journey with "Born to be Wild 3D," now playing in IMAX theaters nationwide. The film takes audiences from the rugged savanna in Kenya, in East Africa, to the lush rain forest of Borneo, in Indonesia. It's in these two wild places that a pair of extraordinary women have devoted their lives to saving endangered animals.

Elephant expert Dame Daphne Sheldrick and primatologist Biruté Mary Galdikas have made it their mission to rescue, rehabilitate and return orphaned elephant calves and baby orangutans to the wild. The movie follows their work as they protect these creatures and their homes.

Since 1977, Sheldrick and her team at The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust have saved and raised more than 130 orphaned elephant calves in Nairobi, Kenya.

TFK: How did you learn to care for orphaned animals?

SHELDRICK: Learning how ... resulted from understanding how elephants behave in wild situations ... plus, just plain common sense. I had already cared for many orphaned wild animals having grown up on a farm in Kenya, but I had never cared for an elephant.

TFK: If you had grown up anywhere other than Kenya, do you think you would have the same passion for wildlife?

A chat with an elephant expert about her work and IMAX film

BY VICKIE AN, TIMEFORKIDS

SHELDRICK: Definitely. I love all animals, whether they are of the domestic variety or wild.

TFK: Can you describe your first interaction with an elephant?

SHELDRICK: Having been born and bred in Africa, my first exposure to elephants was viewing them in a wild situation on safari. ... However, my first close-up interaction with elephants was with my late husband's first two orphans, Samson and Fatuma. They were rescued at the age of 2 in Tsavo National Park. I came to love and understand those orphans, and appreciate the sophistication and intelligence of elephants.

TFK: What was your reason for building the orphanage?

SHELDRICK: The idea of setting up The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in (my husband's) memory, and as a vehicle to (continue) his work ... was the idea of his many friends and admirers worldwide. David was considered to be, at the time, the finest wildlife warden in Africa. ... After my husband died, there were many orphaned elephant calves that had been rescued. There was no one other than myself who had experience in rearing elephant calves, so I was asked to help. That is how it all began.

TFK: Do the animals ever come back to visit after they've been reintroduced to the wild?

SHELDRICK: The orphans often come back to see their human family and the other orphans. ... Elephants never forget. They regard all of the orphans as part of an ex-

tended family. They recognize and love their human family (their keepers) for life. Elephants are just like us humans — only better than us!

TFK: What do you hope "Born to Be Wild" will teach people?

SHELDRICK: The film shows how wonderfully gentle and caring elephants are, and just how intelligent and "human" they are as well. People have to learn to accept that we humans are, in fact, animals. Whether we like it or not, we are still part of the whole. Every species that exists on planet Earth has a role to play. The role of humans has, on the whole, been destructive. Humans need to have more respect for nature. If we continue to ruin it, we threaten our own survival, as well as the existence of many other innocent creatures.

TFK: What can children do to raise awareness of the need to protect endangered wildlife?

SHELDRICK: Children can raise funds to help those working with animals. They can have respect for nature and wildlife. Children must be able to appreciate beauty and celebrate the beautiful world in which we live.

TFK: Do you feel as if you have accomplished what you originally set out to do?

SHELDRICK: Yes. I am amazingly proud of the wonderful support given to me and the Trust by caring people all over the world. I am particularly proud of my two daughters, who have helped me every inch of the way. I know they will continue my work after I am gone, as will my (grandchildren). Like the elephants, I have a very supportive and close family. I give thanks for that every day of my life.

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Galdikas



Sheldrick

Make music for Cinco de Mayo

Shake up your Cinco de Mayo (May 5) celebration with a pair of raisin-box maracas. For each one, you'll need two empty 1½-ounce raisin boxes. Place about a tablespoon of dried beans inside each box, then tape the boxes shut. If you like, paint a jumbo-size craft stick and let it dry. Glue the boxes together with the craft stick between them. Secure the stack with rubber bands until the glue is dry. Cut a 4- by 10-inch piece of red paper. Fold back the shorter edges of the paper about Ninch to make a clean edge. Stand the maraca stick side up. Use doublesided tape to secure the shorter end of the paper to the handle end of one box, butting



against the craft stick. Wrap the paper around the boxes to meet the other side of the handle, and adhere with double-sided tape. Fold and seal the remaining open ends of the paper as you would wrap a gift. Decorate your maracas by gluing on strips of paper. We cut our paper with patterned-edge scissors (see left).

Crafter's Tool Box: Patterned- or decorative-edge scissors are available at craft stores for as little as \$2.50 each. — Disney FamilyFun magazine



Health News

Amazing avocados

Think fast: Name a berry that's rich in heart-healthy monounsaturated fats, tops a banana for potassium (for nerve and muscle health) and offers nearly 50 percent of your recommended daily intake of fiber. Stumped? That's probably because the berry in question is often thought of as a vegetable. Sure, avocados might not be your first choice for pie filling, but like other berries, they're super abundant in disease-fighting phytonutrients.

Mash a peeled and pitted avocado with 2 teaspoons of lime or lemon juice, a large pinch of salt and pepper to taste for a simple guacamole.

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