



Elephant Island

by

Leo Timmers

These STEM focussed questions are designed to use alongside the questions you would usually ask when reading a story.

Before you start reading, you could look at the front cover and ask:

- Where do you think the elephant is?
- How do you think he got there?
- Do you know what an island is? Have you seen/been to one before?

Before you start reading, you could look at the back cover and ask:

- Where do you think the mouse and the dog are?
- What are they travelling in?
- How do you think the dog's boat moves/travels forwards?
- How do you think the mouse's boat moves/travels forwards?

While reading the story, you could ask:

Pages 1 and 2

- What does "sank" mean?
- How do you think the wave sank Arnold's boat?

Pages 3 and 4

- What is a snorkel?
- How is Arnold breathing under water?
- What do you think Arnold should do when he reaches the island? Why?

Pages 5 and 6

- What do you think might be in the sea?
- Do you think Arnold might be in danger? What could he be in danger from?

Pages 7 and 8

- What is a trumpet?
- How is Arnold making a trumpet noise?
- Do you think that a trumpet noise is a good way to call for help?
- Do you think it is louder or quieter than shouting?



Pages 9 and 10

- Do you think Arnold's hat was floating or sinking? What does floating mean?
- The horizon is where the sea and sky look like they meet. Do you think that is near to Arnold or far away?
- How far do you think it could be to the horizon?
- How could you measure the distance?

Pages 11 and 12

- How do you think the mouse boat moves/travels forward?
- What happened when Arnold got into the small mouse boat?
- Why do you think that happened?

Pages 13 and 14

- What has happened to the pieces of the broken mouse boat? Are they floating or sinking?
- What has Arnold done with the pieces of broken mouse boat?
- Where are Arnold and the mouse now?
- How are they able to stay up there?

Pages 15 and 16

- How do you think the dog boat moves/travels forwards?
- What happened to the boat when Arnold and the mouse got on?
- What do you predict will happen next? Why?

Pages 17 and 18

- What did Arnold do to the boat?
- Can you sail in a boat with a hole in it? Why or why not?
- What did they do with the pieces of broken boat?
- How do you think they fastened/joined them together?
- Do you think the structure looks strong and safe? What might happen to it?

Pages 19 and 20

- How do you think the fishing boat is moving/travelling forwards?
- Why do you think it crashed into the island?
- Why didn't it stop?

Pages 21 and 22

- The animals are standing on the roof of the boat- where has the rest of the boat gone?
- Why do you think this has happened?
- What have the animals used to fasten the broken fishing boat to the island?

Pages 23 and 24

- What is the whole structure balancing on?
- Do you think that is strong enough to hold up an elephant? What might happen?



Pages 25 and 26

- What do you predict will happen when all those boats reach Elephant Island?

Pages 27 and 28

- How have they fastened/joined all those extra boats to Elephant Island?

Pages 29 and 30

- What is your favourite part of Elephant Island and why?
- Do you think it looks strong/sturdy/balanced?
- Do you think it may tip over or fall apart? Why?

Pages 31 and 32

- What do you predict will happen to the island in the storm?

Pages 33 and 34

- What could they do now? What would you do?

Pages 35 and 36

- Do you think the rescue boat is big enough for all the animals?
- What do you think they should do about all the broken pieces of boat in the water?

Pages 37 and 38

- How is the new Elephant Island the same/different from the old one?
- What do you like about the new Elephant Island?
- Can you see any parts of the old Elephant Island on the new one?
- How do you think the pieces are fixed/fastened/joined together?
- Do you think this Elephant Island would survive a storm? Why or why not?

After reading, you could ask:

- If you could build your own island, what would you want to have on it?
- What would you build it from? Which materials would you use?
- How would you join or fasten it together?
- How would you make sure it was strong enough to survive a storm?

