

Vowel Syllable Pattern Chart

Long Vowel Digraph Vowel Team			Variant Vowel Vowel Team		Diphthong Vowel Team	
play	away	sees	claws	too	town	count
stay	beast	screams	hawk	proof	down	mouth
day	sweet	tears	squawks	hoof	crowd	our
trail	reach	stream	yawns		frowning	shouts
way	trees	leave	saw		scowls	points
roam	eats	leads			now	
road	leaves	pleads			south	
know	glee	hear			out	
coach	beak	ear			bound	
own	reaches				ground	



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Inspired by the Story: **The Elephant Bird**

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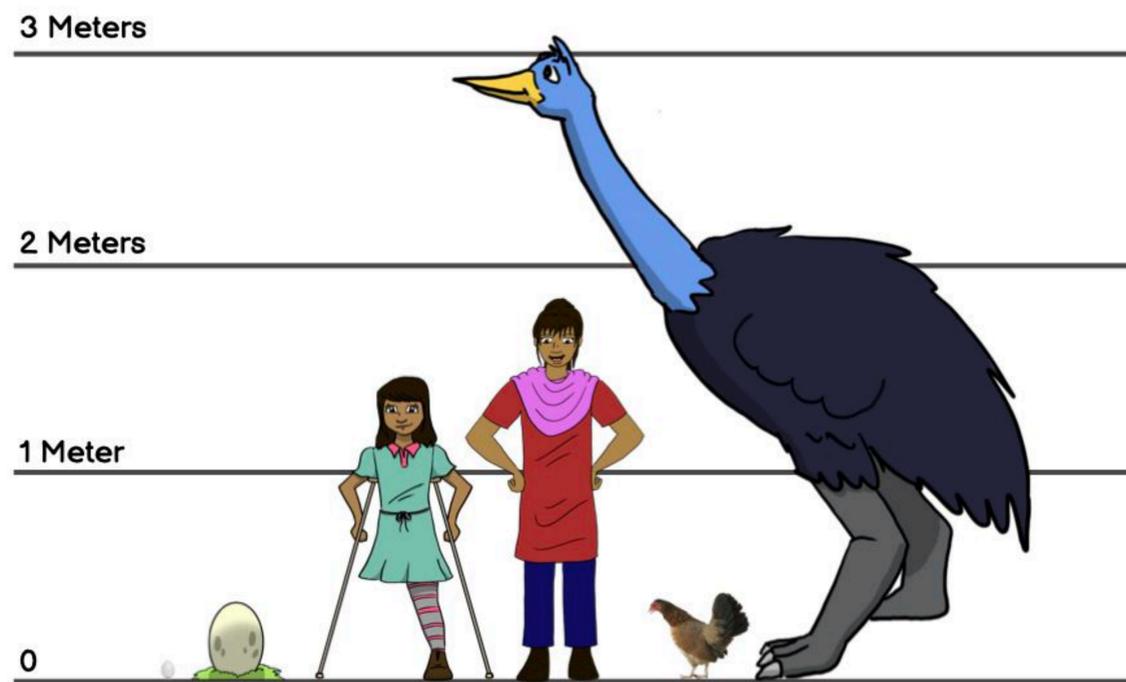
WS WordScientists
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Sarita

Anvi
Elephant Bird

Characters



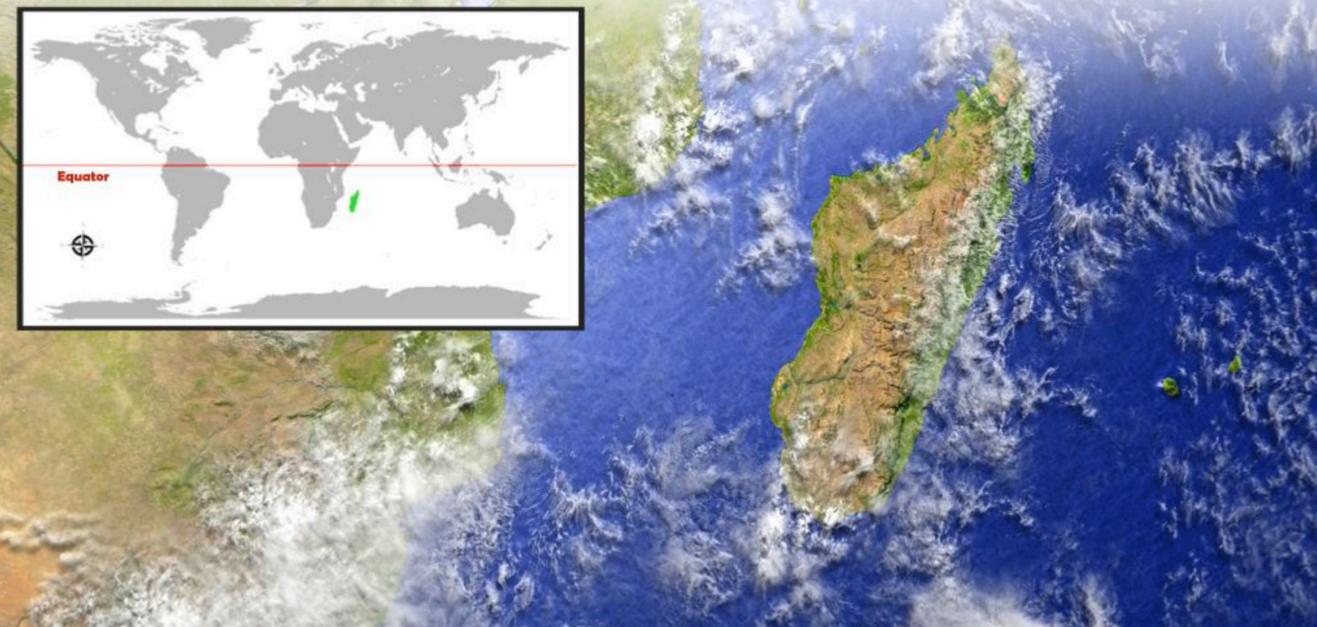
3 Meters

2 Meters

1 Meter

0

Map of Madagascar



Sarita lives in a village at the edge of a forest. She watches the other children play games. Sarita uses crutches to walk, so she is slower than the other children. She wishes the other children would invite her to play.



Sarita made a secret friend in the forest. Her friend is Anvi, a giant bird. Anvi is so huge that he cannot fly. People are afraid of Anvi because he is different from other birds. They call him the Elephant bird because he is so huge. Sarita's mom tells Sarita to stay away from the Elephant bird. Her mom thinks Anvi is an awful beast with claws as sharp as a hawk.

Elephant Bird Facts

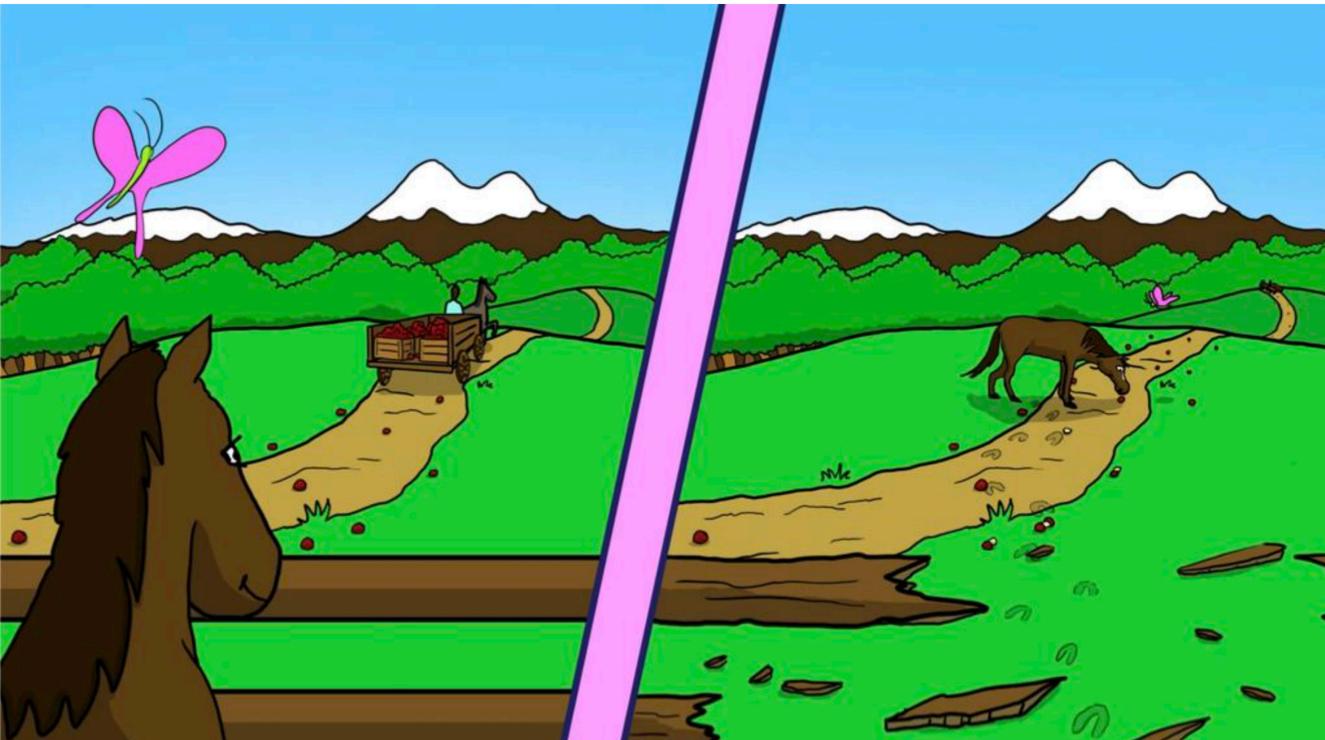
- Lived in Madagascar off the coast of East Africa
- Became extinct in the 1600's
- Closest living relative is the Kiwi bird of New Zealand
- Weighed 500 KG (1,100 lb)
- 3 Meters Tall (9.8 Feet)
- Their eggs were bigger than a human head



From that day on, everyone includes Anvi and Sarita when they play. They realize everyone does not have to be the same. Sarita is clever, and she thinks of new plans to win games. Her favorite thing is to coach from the sidelines. Finally, people in the village have respect for Sarita and Anvi.



Unlike her mother, Sarita knows Anvi is tame and sweet. She rides on Anvi's back to reach apples high up in the tall trees. They roam around the forest together every day.



One day, an apple farmer finishes selling apples in the town market. He follows South Road out of town, bound for home. He does not realize that apples are falling off his cart and onto the road. Banjarra, the horse, spots the apples and decides to go after them. He crashes through the fence and follows the trail of apples. As he eats the apples and spits out the cores, he leaves behind a trail. Banjarra follows the cart down the road out of town.



When the crowd of people arrives, they are surprised!

Sarita says, "I saw his hoof prints on the road. The Elephant bird and I followed them to this orchard."

"That is so smart," says the elder. "We should all think before we act. And we should not be scared of things that are different."



The road leads to an apple orchard. They shine a light on Bajarra! The horse is still eating apples. Sarita smiles from ear to ear.



Later that day, Anvi is on his way back to the forest when he spots the apple cores on the ground. There are too many to count. He squawks with glee as he walks down the road picking up the cores with his beak and popping them into his mouth. He leaves his giant footprints along the way. When he reaches the broken fence, he yawns and decides to go back to his nest to rest.



When Sarita comes back to town, she sees a crowd of angry people. They are frowning about the missing horse. "A monster ate our horse!" screams one man. "A monster? It was that awful Elephant bird!" yells Sarita's mom.

Sarita stands in front of the crowd. She tells them, "It wasn't the Elephant bird! He only eats apples and plants." But an old man scowls at her and says, "Shh! Children should be quiet."



After some time, they arrive at South Road. Sarita uses her lantern to light their way. They follow the horse's hoof prints away from the town.

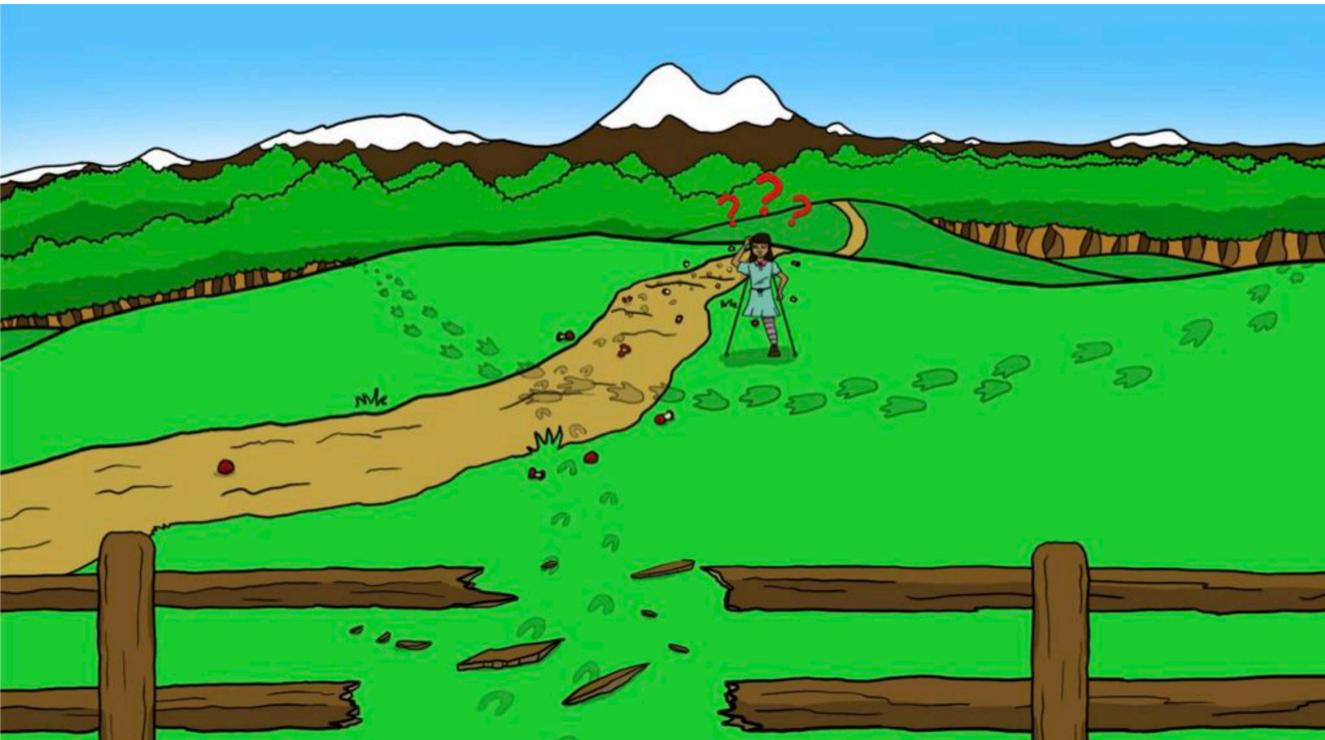


Sarita arrives at Anvi's nest before the crowd. "Come with me!" she pleads with Anvi. She climbs up on Anvi's back.

They hear the other people coming, so they run to hide deeper in the forest.



Sarita's mother scolds her, "You know kids should not talk back to adults." She points to where she wants Sarita to go and shouts, "Now go home." Tears stream down Sarita's face as she turns to leave.



Sarita is very upset because she thinks people will hurt Anvi. So, she makes a plan to find out what happened. First, she goes to Banjarra's fence. Next, she discovers the horse's hoof prints trailing down the road. But Anvi's GIANT footprints go into the forest. She has proof that the horse and bird did not walk the same way.



The people in the village think the Elephant bird will eat their animals. So, at night, they go to the forest to find Anvi.

While the people hunt for Anvi, Sarita races to save him. She will ride Anvi and follow the trail that leads to Banjarra.