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Opening extract from

Would an Elephant Enjoy the Seaside?

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Published by

QED Publishing

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African elephants are the *largest* animals that live on land.

Design: Duck Egg Blue
Editor: Carly Madden
Editorial Director: Victoria Garrard
Art Director: Laura Roberts-Jensen
Associate Publisher: Maxime Boucknooghe
Publisher: Zeta Jones

Copyright © QED Publishing 2015

First published in the UK in 2015 by
QED Publishing
Part of The Quarto Group
The Old Brewery
6 Blundell Street
London N7 9BH

www.qed-publishing.co.uk

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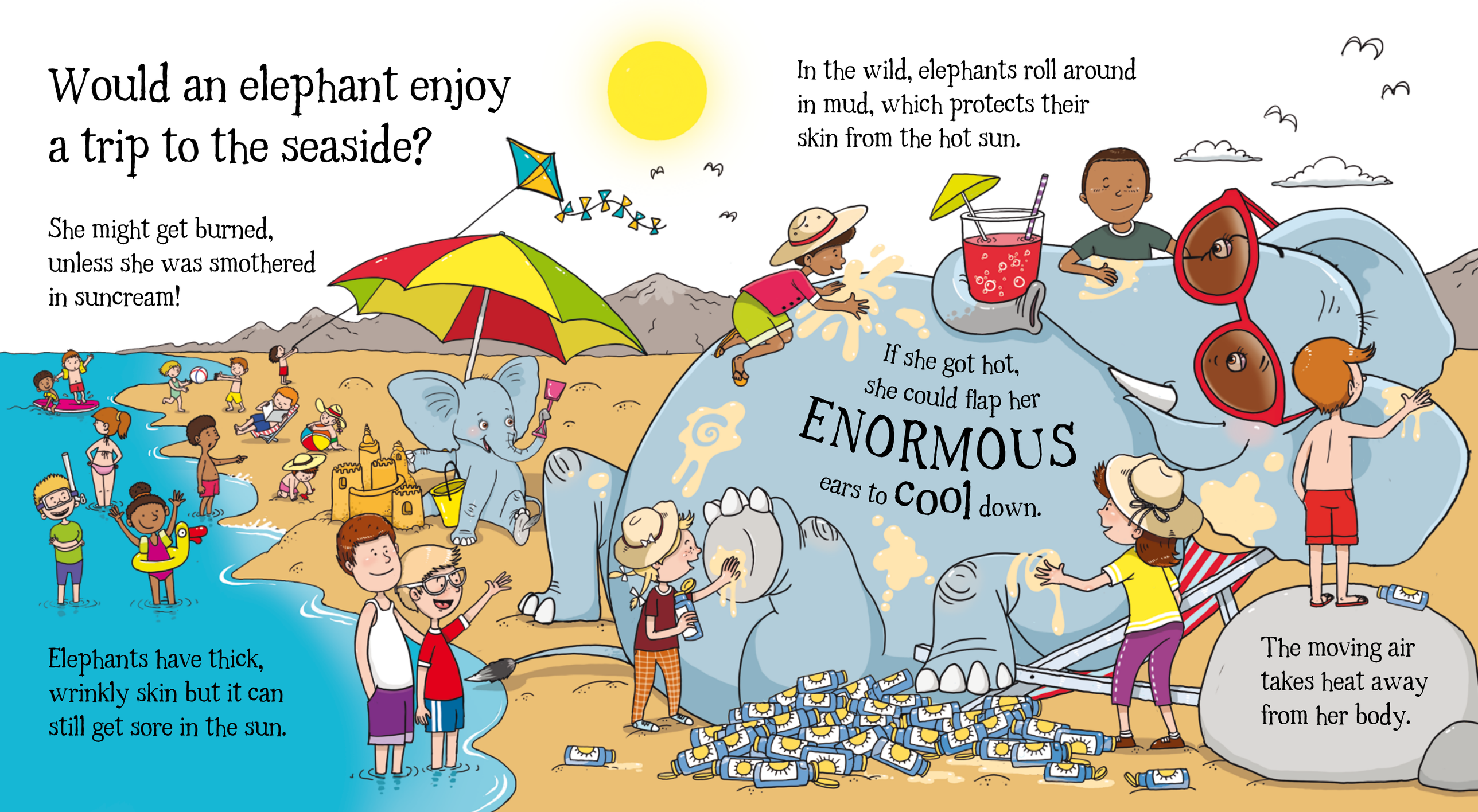
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978 1 78171 585 7

Printed in China

They live in family groups and stroll through forests and grasslands together.

Imagine if an African elephant came to stay. What would she do?


Would an elephant enjoy a trip to the seaside?
She might get burned, unless she was smothered in suncream!
Elephants have thick, wrinkly skin but it can still get sore in the sun.
In the wild, elephants roll around in mud, which protects their skin from the hot sun.
If she got hot, she could flap her ENORMOUS ears to cool down.
The moving air takes heat away from her body.

Could an elephant be a ballet dancer?

Her feet are bigger than
dinner plates,
so she wouldn't look
very elegant!



Elephants need big feet to carry all that weight.





She would also find it hard to point her toes. African elephants have four toenails on a front foot, and three toenails on a back foot.





