

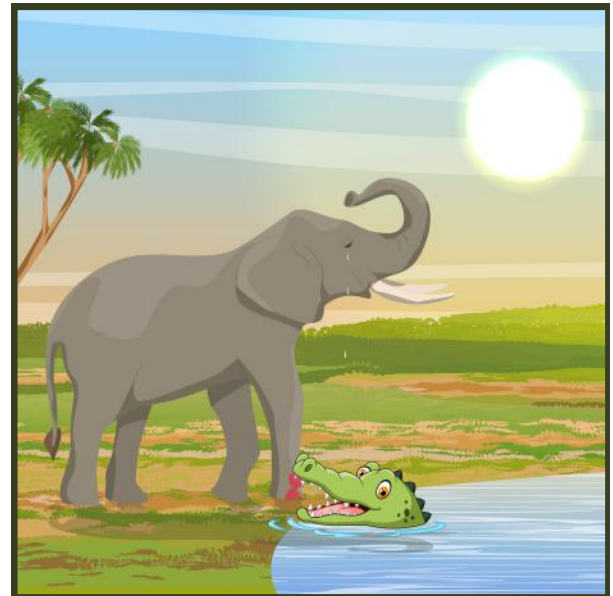
# Reading Comprehension: The Mighty Elephant 'Gajendra'

Years and years ago, on a three-peaked mountain called "The Trikuta," there stood a beautiful garden. A big herd of elephants lived in this garden in peace and harmony. Gajendra, a young and mighty elephant, was the leader of the herd.

Gajendra was the strongest of them all. One day, while the herd was walking in a park, Gajendra felt thirsty and went in search of water. He could smell the lotuses and began to walk forward with his herd.

As he reached the lake, he drank the water and took a splash in the cool water. When he was playing with the other elephants and sprinkling water on the young elephants, a crocodile suddenly emerged from the water and caught hold of his leg.

He tried very hard to free himself from the crocodile. He trumpeted in pain until he was hoarse. All the other elephants of his herd tried their best to help him. The struggle went on for a long time, and it was getting dark. When the elephants realized that there was nothing they could do to help Gajendra, they all left with teary eyes.



Gajendra was tired after struggling for hours. He knew his end was near. He closed his eyes and prayed to Lord Vishnu to forgive him for his sins and save him. Lord Vishnu heard his prayers and came down to help him. As Gajendra saw the Lord arriving, he lifted a lotus with his trunk in reverence. Lord Vishnu was very pleased to see Gajendra offering him respect in spite of being in severe pain and agony.

Lord Vishnu used his Sudarshana chakra and decapitated the crocodile. The crocodile let go of his grip and slid into the water. Gajendra bowed in front of Lord Vishnu and thanked him profusely.

The celestial beings rejoiced at the compassionate deed of the Lord and showered flowers from heaven.

**Based on your understanding of the story, answer the following questions.**

1) Where was the garden located?

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2) What did Gajendra do when he reached the lake?

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3) Which animal came out of the lake? What did it do?

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4) What did Gajendra do to fight the crocodile?

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5) What did Gajendra do when he lost his courage and thought that his end was near?

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6) Who arrived to help Gajendra?

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7) What did Gajendra do when he saw Lord Vishnu?

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8) What did the celestial beings do?

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Match the words on the left with their meaning on the right, by drawing lines.

Word	Meaning
1. Herd	a) To a great degree
2. Trumpet	b) Extreme physical or mental pain
3. Hoarse	c) A large group of animals that lives together
4. Reverence	d) A rough and harsh voice
5. Agony	e) The loud call of an animal
6. Profusely	f) Related to heaven or positioned in the sky or in the outer space
7. Celestial	g) Deep sympathy and concern for others
8. Compassionate	h) A deep respect for someone or something.