

### 3. The Mice and the Elephants



Once upon a time there was a king who lived in a fine stone palace. After many years the king grew old and died. Everyone left the palace. Slowly the walls fell down, and soon only the floors were left.

Now, in the cracks of the floors lived hundreds of mice. They lived with their sons and grandsons, their grandfathers and their grandmothers, and they were all very comfortable. They played games, and had festivals and weddings, dramas and feasts. They were all very happy.

Near this palace was a large lake. One day in the hot weather, the elephant-king came to drink water with his herd. The whole herd walked all over the floors of the palace. They killed many of the mice.



The mice were very sad. They held a meeting.

'These elephants will kill us all!' they cried. 'What shall we do?'

Some of the mice went to the elephants. They said, 'O friends, we live under the palace floors. If you walk over the floors on the way to the lake, you will kill us all. Please go along another path. One day we may help you.'

The elephant-king and his herd listened to the mice. At last they agreed to use another path.

Now one day the elephant-king and his herd were trapped in the forest by some hunters. They were tied up with ropes. Luckily, one of the elephants was not trapped. He ran through the forest and called the mice. Hundreds of them came to help the elephants. They bit the ropes and at last the elephants were free.

The elephants thanked the mice, and they remembered the old saying: 'Make friends, always make friends, however strong or weak.'

(Adapted from a *Panchatantra* tale)





ch-3 (The Mice and the Elephants)

Word Meaning

agree — to think the same as someone; to say yes

comfortable — at ease; free from worry or troubles.

feast — a large meal for many people.

festival — a time of celebration.

herd — a number of wild animals that stay together as one group.

weak — not strong; without energy.

whole — complete.

Answer the following:—

1. a) Why did everyone leave the palace?

Ans: Everyone left the palace because the king grew old and died.

b) Who lived in the cracks of the floors?

Ans: Hundreds of mice lived in the cracks of the floors.

c) Who agreed to use another path?

Ans: The elephant king and his herd agreed to use another path.



d) What did the elephants remember?

Ans: The elephants remembered the old saying, 'Make friends, always make friends, however strong or weak.'

e) Why is it good to make friends?

Ans. It is good to make friends because friends can help us celebrate good time and provide support during bad times.

3. Put these sentences in their correct order:-

- a) The mice went to talk to the elephants. [5]
- b) The elephants were caught in a trap. [6]
- c) The king died. [1]
- d) The mice bit the ropes of the trap. [8]
- e) The palace walls fell down. [2]
- f) One elephant called the mice. [7]
- g) The elephants killed some mice. [3]
- h) The mice held a meeting. [4]

### HOME WORK

1. Make sentences of your own from the following:

- a) The elephant-king wanted \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Under the floors of the palace \_\_\_\_\_
- c) These elephants will surely \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Let us help \_\_\_\_\_.

State whether the following sentences are true (T) or false (F): —

- a) The king was very kind to the elephants.
- b) The mice did not help anyone.
- c) The elephants thanked the mice.
- d) The herd decided to go another way.
- e) The palace was made of bricks.

Make Sentences : —

- 1) festivals — I enjoy with my family during the festivals.
- 2) floors — We should keep the floors of our house clean.
- 3) meeting —
- 4) listen —
- 5) palace —