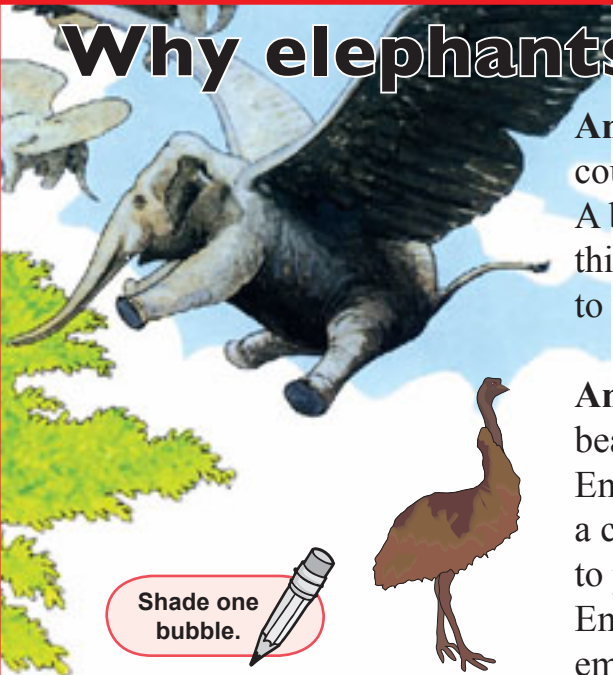
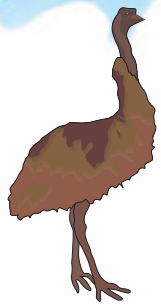


YEAR 5 READING


Why elephants and emus cannot fly



An Indian folktale tells of a time when elephants could fly. One day a flock of elephants landed in a tree. A branch fell on a man who was sitting under the tree thinking. He was cross. He used his powers of thought to take away the elephants' wings.



An Australian story tells about Emu, who once had beautiful, big, rainbow-coloured wings and could fly. Emu was always boasting, so Kookaburra set up a competition to trick Emu. Emu tried to fly to the sun to prove that his wings were the best. The sun burnt Emu's wings and he fell back to Earth. Ever since then, emus have had small brown wings and cannot fly.



Shade one bubble.

1 The branch fell on the man's head because

- the man was careless. the elephants tried to climb the tree.
 the elephants landed in the tree. the man took away the elephants' wings.

2 The man used *his powers of thought* to

- punish the elephants. frighten the elephants.
 reward the elephants. surprise the elephants.

3 Which word best describes Emu in the Australian story?

- hero coward
 cheat show-off

4 Why did Kookaburra really set up a competition with Emu?

- to teach Emu a lesson to show off in front of Emu
 to teach Emu to fly better to see whose wings were the best

5 At the end of the Australian story, what happened to Emu's wings?

- They shrank. They grew stronger.
 They disappeared. They became more colourful.

6 What is the same about the Indian folktale and the Australian story?

- Both make fun of silly characters. Both tell how simple life used to be.
 Both show that animals are clever. Both explain why something is the way it is.