

Oh, Seuss!™ Off to Great Places

activity 3

Egg to Go!

Watch an egg? What a job! What a hard thing to do!
They can crack! They can smash! It all comes down to you
And how careful you are and how warm it will be
Underneath you, up high in a very high tree!
When Horton the Elephant hatches the egg
He sits in the rain and the snow, 'til I'd beg
For a rest! We can help! Make a carrying case
So Horton can egg-sit in some warmer place!

So join us today—help an egg take a trip,
By making a case that's both sturdy and hip!



Exhibition developed by

CMOM
Children's Museum of Manhattan

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Did you know?



The idea for *Horton Hatches the Egg* came to Dr. Seuss one day when he happened to hold a drawing of an elephant up to the window. As the light shone through the tracing paper, the elephant looked as though it were perched in the tree outside of Dr. Seuss's window. Dr. Seuss began to wonder why an elephant might be in a tree, and Horton was born.



Some kinds of ants protect the eggs of aphids (another type of bug that lives on plants) by keeping the aphid eggs in their own nests until spring. After the aphids have hatched, the ants carry the aphids back outside and carefully place them on the plants that aphids love to eat.



Symbiosis is a word describing a cool partnership that develops between certain animals, where each animal helps the other. Some birds eat ticks and fleas off the backs of large grazing animals like rhinos and buffaloes, while other birds clean the gums of crocodiles by removing leeches. The crocodile actually opens its mouth to allow the bird to go to work!

What you'll need

- An egg

Recycled materials, such as:

- A box
- Foam, sponges, tissue paper, tape, pipe cleaners, styrofoam pieces
- Cotton balls, grass, polyfill, balloons, baggies, plastic containers, glue, wire, plastic wrap

Try It!

*"The elephant laughed.
'Why, of all silly things!
I haven't feathers and I haven't wings.
ME on your egg? Why, that doesn't make sense...
Your egg is so small, ma'am, and I'm so immense!"*
—Dr. Seuss



In Dr. Seuss's book, *Horton Hatches the Egg*, a very generous elephant agrees to sit on a bird's egg until it hatches, while the bird goes off on vacation. Horton endures many challenges when some people move his tree (with him and the nest still in it) and cart it off to the circus. But, in the end, the elephant is rewarded for his patience because the bird that comes out of the egg looks like a small elephant with wings.



Imagine that you had to be responsible for a chicken's egg until it hatched. The egg needs to be kept warm and safe wherever you go and it must always be with you. Horton kept watch over his egg by sitting on the nest in a tree for over a year, even though elephants don't usually stay in trees. How would you keep your egg safe?



In today's activity, you must design your own travel case for an egg. Use recycled materials to create a special carrier that will allow you to safely transport an egg with you wherever you go for a whole 24 hour period. Imagine that you travel with your egg around the world.



After you design your case you might try it out for a few minutes with a plastic egg to be sure that it will protect your egg before putting an actual egg in it.



After you've carried your egg for at least 24 hours, like Horton did, write a story about how it was to take care of a chicken's egg. At the end of your story, make a prediction about what kind of animal you think might come out if your egg were actually to hatch. Think about the experiences your egg has had and the animals your egg has visited.

How might that influence your egg?
Remember, Horton's bird egg became part elephant!

Mop up these Resources

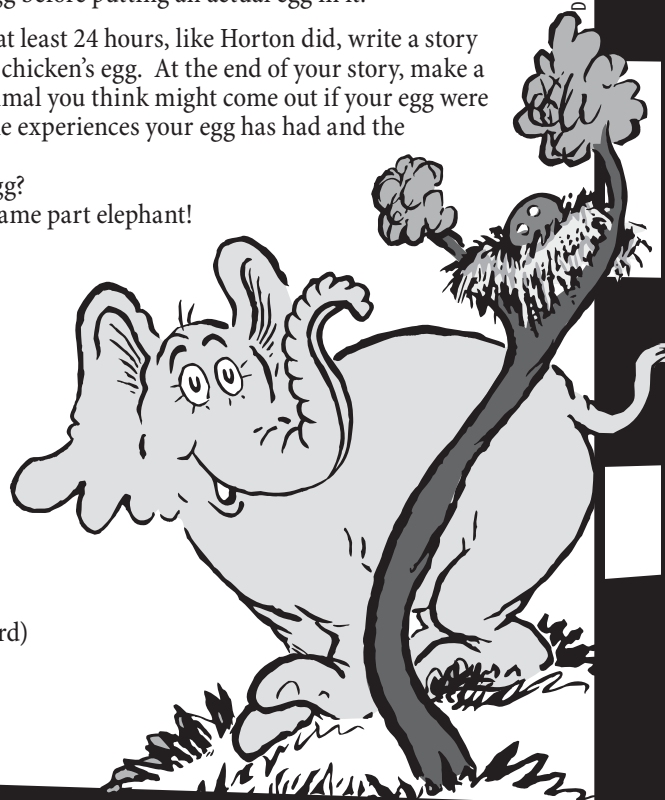
By Dr. Seuss:

Green Eggs and Ham
Horton Hears a Who
Scrambled Eggs Super

By Margaret Griffin and Deborah Seed:
The Amazing Egg Book

www.aeb.org (American Egg Board)

www.goldeneggs.com.au



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