

October 19th

Memory Verse

**Go ye therefore,
and teach all nations,**
baptizing them
in the name of
the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Ghost. Matthew 28:19

Younger children could learn the words in **bold** and understand that what we are to teach is the truth of the Bible: that Jesus came to save sinners. Don't forget to practice your earlier memory verses too!

Something to read from History: The Battle of Zama¹

Use your **atlas** to follow the story.

The ruins in the picture are the remains of the city of Carthage, in North Africa in modern **Tunis**. The city was founded in 825BC² as a trading post by a people called the Phoenicians. The Phoenicians came from coastal towns on the Eastern shores of the **Mediterranean Sea**, including Tyre and Sidon and in the Bible they are called Caananites or Sidonians. It was they who introduced the worship of the evil false god, Baal, to the Children of Israel. Carthage was a centre of Baal worship.



The most famous Carthaginian was Hannibal Barca (Barca means “Thunderbolt”) (c.247-183BC), who lived during the times between the Old and the New Testament.

Hannibal was the son of a General and he lived at a time when Carthage was at war with the Roman Empire. Both the Carthaginians and the Romans were very powerful and wanted to control the Southern Mediterranean. There were three wars – known as Punic³ Wars – between Rome and Carthage. Hannibal's father had been quite successful against Rome, fighting the Romans in Spain. Hannibal was able to build on his father's successes. He was a very clever general and often surprised the Romans because he was good at thinking ahead. In 218 BC he defeated the Roman city of Saguntum (modern **Sagunto** near Valencia) in Spain. This was the excuse the Romans needed they decided to rid Spain of the Carthaginians. They declared war on Carthage thus starting the Second Punic War.

After his success at Saguntum, Hannibal did the amazing thing for which he is famous even today. If you know anything at all about Hannibal you will know that he is associated with elephants. He marched his huge army, with all its equipment *and its war-elephants* across France, and then *over the Alps* into **Italy** itself. The Alps are very high, inhospitable mountains. Hannibal lost half his army in the snow and ice. He surprised the Romans completely and as he marched south through

¹ Based on information in Osgood, John *Over the Face of all the Earth* (Capalaba, 2015) and *The Oxford Junior Encyclopaedia* (Oxford, 1953) Volume 5.

² Some children might need to learn BC/AD meaning.

³ This word comes from the Latin word for Phoenician.

Italy he inflicted terrible damage. He gained control of the whole of Southern Italy by 216BC when he defeated the Romans at the Battle of **Cannae**. Soon he was within three miles of **Rome** itself.



But Hannibal never succeeded in conquering Rome. He was now far from his African home and it was hard for him to get supplies as the Romans had control of the shipping in the Mediterranean Sea. The Romans now had an excellent general too, called Scipio Africanus (236-183BC) who learned from Hannibal's tactics. Hannibal spent fifteen years trying to conquer the Romans in Europe. Scipio persuaded the Roman Senate to allow him to take an army to Africa and fight Hannibal there. On **19th October**⁴ 202BC at the Battle

of Zama, near the border of Modern Tunisia and **Algeria**, the Roman legions under Scipio Africanus defeated Hannibal, who was leading the army defending Carthage.

Measuring and comparing

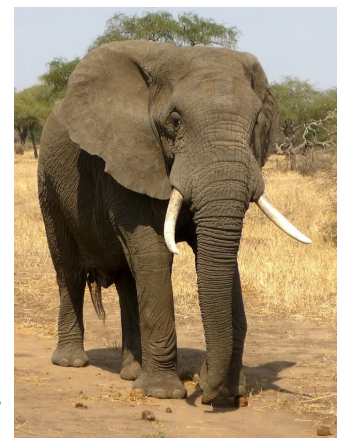
Could you fit an elephant in your garden? Younger children might enjoy laying out an elephant-sized space in the park or in your garden. An African elephant can be as much as 4 metres high. Work out if an African elephant could stand up in your living room! An African elephant is also about 4 metres from front to back. I can't find out a width measurement but I would guess up to half the length. An African elephant can weigh up to 6000 kg. A family car weighs between 1200kg and 2000kg. Use your bathroom scales to find out what you weigh. A Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) is any lorry weighing over 3,500kg.

Draw an Elephant⁵



In the Optional Resources files for today are instructions for drawing an elephant by drawing round your hand.

There are two⁶ kinds of elephant living today, the African elephant and the Asian elephant. Do you know which of these pictures is which?⁷



Which kind did Hannibal have in his army? You might think, as he came from Africa it would have to be African elephants. But African elephants are not capable of being trained. They are wild animals that could never be used in warfare. Did Hannibal get his elephants all the way from **India** then? Surely not! The answer is that he probably used a third type of elephant, which is now extinct, called the North African elephant. This elephant was smaller than both the African and Asian elephant. Because none exist any longer we do not know how easy it was to tame the North African elephant but perhaps it was (relatively!) easy.

A scene to make

If you enjoyed drawing the elephant you could draw several so that you have a herd. You may be able to adapt the ears making them smaller if you want Asian elephants and giving them a wavy edge for African elephants. Perhaps you could adapt the trunk position too, and have some

⁴ No idea how they know the exact day at this distance in time!

⁵ Adapted from *How to Draw Animals*, from the *Mothers' Companion* Flashdrive, available from <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com>

⁶ There is also a smaller African elephant with straight tusks the Africa Forest elephant!

⁷ The Asian elephant has smaller ears; it is on the left.

elephants reaching up to eat leaves from branches. Then you could stick them onto some cardboard (back of cereal packets) and cut them out. If you cut them out with a flat base you can make stands for them. This can be done by cutting a 2 cm strip of cardboard about half as long again as the base. Cut two slits about 1 cm from the each end of the strip about 1 cm deep. Cut similar slits in the base of the elephant. Now slide the slits in the elephant base into the slits in the strip so that the strip curves out behind the elephant and a little piece sticks out at each side of the elephant at the front. You should now be able to stand the elephant up.

Now you need to make a jungle background. A larger box might be good for this, perhaps a big cereal box or a box that has had something delivered in it. Get out your paints and felt tipped pens and create a jungle scene at the back of the box. You could add some “wings” as in a theatre by making jungle trees and bushes (a little smaller than the elephants) which could project from the sides of the box into the scene. Position your elephants in different places in your jungle scene. I'm sure your elephants will be happier than poor Hannibal's elephants were toiling up the freezing Alps!

Lego elephant

In today's optional resources files are instructions for a simple Lego elephant. I have tried to find a design that does not require any special bricks. You may prefer to put Lego elephants in your scene if you have enough Lego to make one or two.

Elephant quiz

On the next page is a list of some differences between African and Asian elephants. Can you write “African” or “Asian” by the correct characteristic in each row? If you can't print the page out you can use the numbers to list your answers. You could also make an attractive poster by drawing two outline elephant shapes and writing the relevant characteristics on them – taking care to match the shape you draw to the right kind of elephant. The first row is done for you.⁸

1a The larger of the two African	1b The smaller of the two Asian
2a Fan shaped large ears reach over the neck	2b Smaller ears
3a Female elephants do not have tusks	3b Both male and female elephants have tusks
4a Wrinkled skin	4b Smooth skin
5a Up to 20 pairs of ribs	5b Up to 21 pairs of ribs
6a Highest point of the elephant is the back	6b Highest point of the elephant is the shoulder
7a Belly slopes down towards hind legs	7b Belly is flat or sags
8a Head has no humped structures or dents	8b Head crumpled from front to back; forehead dented
9a Long tapering lower lip	9b Short round lower lip
10a Trunk has 2 fingers	10b Trunk has 1 finger

⁸ For more information and excellent footage of African elephants see <https://thejohn1010project.com/blog/2023/05/31/the-elephants-trunk/>

Map work: Carthage again!



<http://www.cngcoins.com>

Gaiseric king of the Vandals (c. 389 – 477AD) ruled of a German tribe who may have originated in **Scandinavia** and then moved south via **Poland**. By the time of Gaiseric they had reached **Spain**. You can see Gaiseric's picture on a coin on the left.

The Vandals were violent warriors and Gaiseric was so successful as their king that he defeated the Romans every time he met them in battle. The Vandals' methods of warfare were so destructive that they have left their mark on our language. Today we call anybody who destroys or damages things for the sake of it a “vandal”.

Despite their violent habits, the Vandals were no longer Pagans – at least on the surface. They believed in some Christian teachings but, like Muslims, did not believe in the Trinity. Just as there are today, there were many people at this time who claimed to believe some parts of what the Bible teaches and not others. This is what the Vandals did. The problem is that the Bible is a whole and any part taken away quickly destroys the teaching of the rest. In fact, we can see that the Vandals had never really abandoned their old Pagan gods. God the Father was to them Odin or Woden and Jesus Christ was the equivalent of Thor, son of the highest of the gods.

It was on **19th October** 439AD that Gaiseric made the first of his two most famous conquests: that of Carthage.

Spain had become uncomfortable for the Vandals as they were coming under attack from another tribe, the Visigoths. Gaiseric therefore decided that they would leave Spain to the Visigoths and cross the Mediterranean Sea to North Africa. A vast number of Vandals – some say 20,000 some as many as 80,000 – crossed to Africa via the **Straits of Gibraltar**.

At the time North Africa was largely ruled by Rome and it was from this province that Rome's major supply of grain was imported. The Vandals began to conquer North Africa. They laid siege to the town of Hippo Regius, (now **Annaba**, Algeria) capturing it after long and bitter fighting. The great Christian writer Augustine⁹ lived at Hippo Regius and was dying of his final illness during the siege. The Vandals destroyed all of the city except his cathedral and library. Then Gaiseric made a treaty with the Romans, even sending his son as a hostage to Rome. He promised to leave Carthage alone and was allowed by the terms of the treaty to keep all the African territory that he had conquered. However, Gaiseric suddenly turned on the Romans and captured Carthage, which had been his aim from the first.

What was the other famous conquest? Rome itself! The Vandals now had Carthage as an excellent port from which to launch their fleet of ships in the Mediterranean. They sailed to Italy and marched to Rome ready to attack in 455AD. The terrified Romans sent the pope out to negotiate with Gaiseric, begging him to spare their lives in exchange for whatever of their property he wanted. Gaiseric agreed and he and his men looted the city, taking everything of value they could lay hands on, and sailed back to North Africa.

Something to learn about dates

Look at the dates in this lesson again:

founding of Carthage 825BC

⁹ See lesson for August 28th.

Hannibal Barca c.247-183BC
Battle of Seguntium 218 BC
Battle of Cannae 216BC
Scipio Africanus 236-183BC
Battle of Zama 202BC
Gaiseric c. 389 – 477AD
Conquest of Carthage 439AD
Sack of Rome 455AD

What do the letters BC and AD stand for?¹⁰ History is dated by convention by comparison with the time of Christ. The BC dates run in the opposite direction to the AD ones; the numbers get lower as you approach the time of Christ. That means that dates of lives such as that of Hannibal look a little strange: 247-183 looks as if Hannibal lived backwards! Draw a time line of the events in this lesson by ruling a line across a piece of A4 paper longwise (landscape). How many years are there between 825BC and 455AD?¹¹ Use your answer to work out a suitable scale along the line you have drawn. Mark the scale on the line and then write the various dates and lives at the correct points.

These days an alternative terminology is becoming general instead of AD/BC. The letters CE are used instead of AD and BCE instead of BC. CE stands for Common Era and BCE for Before Common Era. I think you can guess why! Some people want to take Christ out of history with the excuse that to set the date in this way might offend some non-Christians. This is a strange argument. To begin with the actual “turning point” in history is exactly the same in both systems and it is Christ – whatever letters are used. Also non Christians are not generally worried. Here is what the Daily Mail Newspaper found when it asked people's opinion:

Lord Carey [former Archbishop of Canterbury] said: 'I have never met a Muslim or Jewish leader who is offended by the Gregorian calendar'¹² while leading Imam Ibrahim Mogra said: 'I don't believe it causes Muslims offence.' A spokesman for the Board of Deputies of British Jews said: 'I don't think anyone would mind if in mainstream schools they use BC and AD'.¹³

So when you come across CE and BCE just translate them in your mind to AD and BC. And be aware too: the fact the whoever wrote what you are reading uses CE and BCE tells you something about their attitude which might make you want to be cautious in the way you consider what they have to say on the subject they are writing too!

10 Before Christ and *Anno Domini* the Year of Our Lord.

11 I make it 1380. That gives 138 ten year divisions on the time line. You may want to round it up to 140. I found that 2 cm for every 100 years fitted well onto my piece of paper.

12 We had a lesson about the Gregorian calendar on 24th September.

13 Daily Mail 1st October 2017.

Quiz answers:

African Elephant	Asian Elephant
The larger of the two	The smaller of the two
Fan shaped large ears which reach over the neck	Smaller ears
Both male and female elephants have tusks	Female elephants do not have tusks
Wrinkled skin	Smooth skin
Up to 21 pairs of ribs	Up to 20 pairs of ribs
Highest point of the elephant is at the shoulder	Highest point of the elephant is the back
Belly slopes down towards hind legs	Belly is flat or sags
Head has no humped structures or dents	Head is crumpled from front to back and forehead dented
Short round lower lip	Long tapering lower lip
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