

Nest Book

# Sarita and the Elephant Bird



# Meet the story's main characters



Sarita lives in a village near the forest. She uses crutches to walk, so she is slower than the other kids. Sarita wants to join other kids to play games.



Sarita has a secret friend in the forest, Anvi, a giant bird. She is so big that she cannot fly. People call her the Elephant Bird. They are afraid of Anvi. Sarita's mom tells Sarita to stay away from the Elephant Bird.

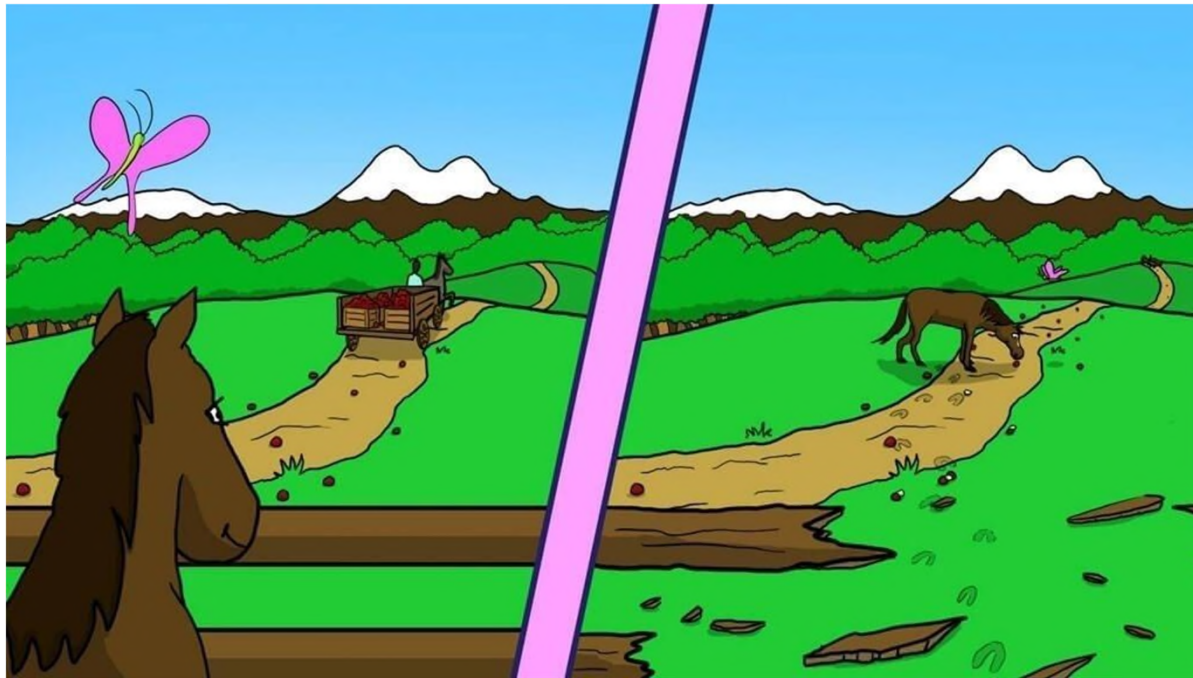




But Sarita knows Anvi is tame and sweet. She rides on Anvi's back to reach apples in the tall trees.



The village has only one horse. One day, the horse sees apples fall from a farmer's cart onto the road. He escapes the fence, eats the apples, and leaves hoofprints on the ground.



Anvi sees the apple cores on her way home to the forest. She takes a bite. She makes big footprints on the road.



In the village, people talk about the missing horse. "The Elephant Bird ate our horse!" screams one man.

Sarita stands in front of the crowd. She says, "It wasn't Anvi! She only eats plants." But an old man tells her, "Shh! Children should be quiet."



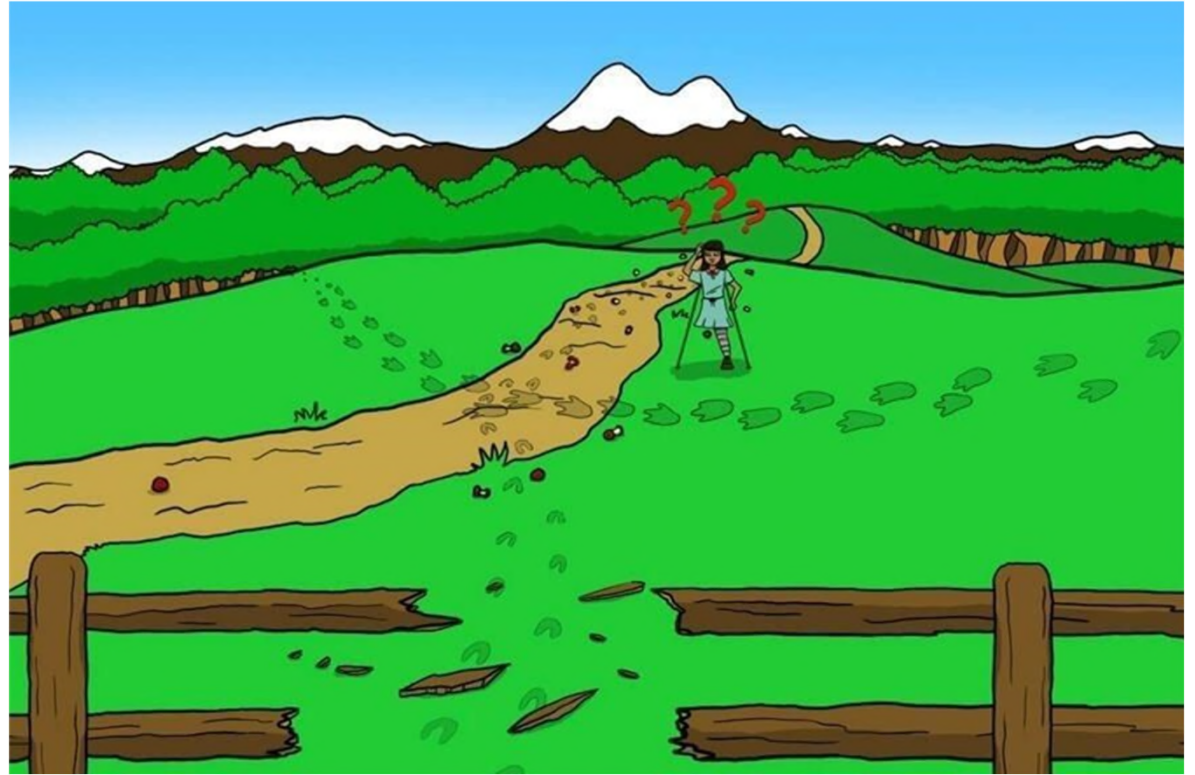


Sarita's mother tells her, "You know kids should listen to adults. Now go home."



Sarita is so upset because she thinks people will hurt Anvi. So, she makes a plan to find out what happened.

First, she goes to the fence. Next, she sees the horse's hoofprints on the road.



Then, Sarita and Anvi run to the road. Sarita uses her lantern to light the way. They follow the horse's hoofprints.



The road goes to an apple orchard. They shine a light on the horse! It is still eating apples.





The people come and they are surprised! "How did you know the horse was here?" they ask.

Sarita says, "I saw his footprints on the road. Anvi and I followed them here."



The old man says, "We should not be scared of things that are different."

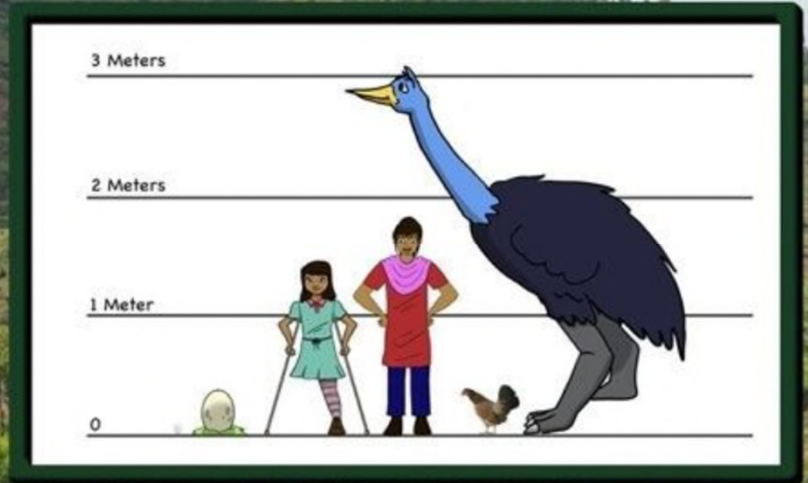
After that,  
everyone  
includes Anvi  
and Sarita when  
they play. They  
do not care if  
they are  
different.



Sarita is clever and she helps the kids win games.  
Sarita and Anvi are so happy to be included.

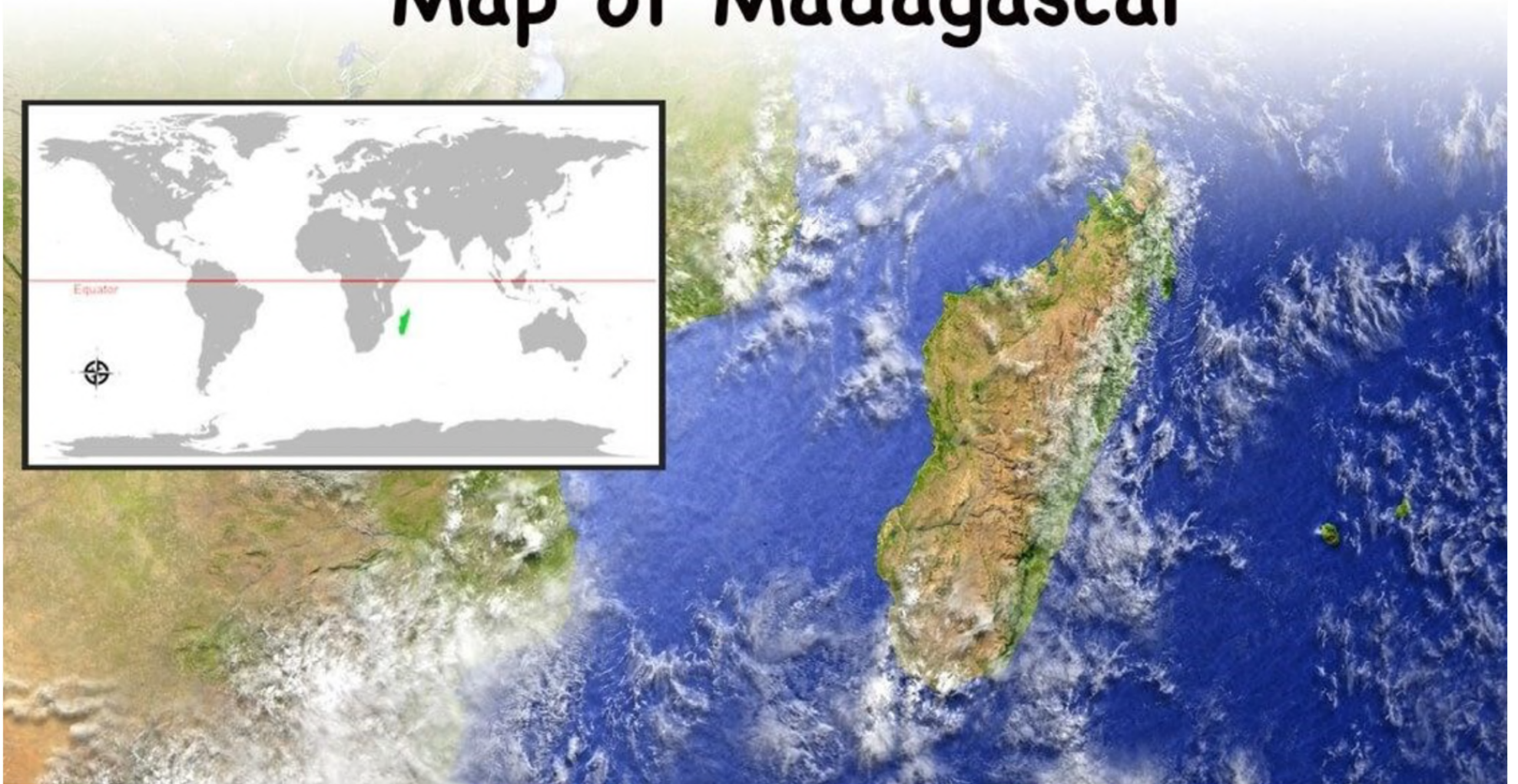
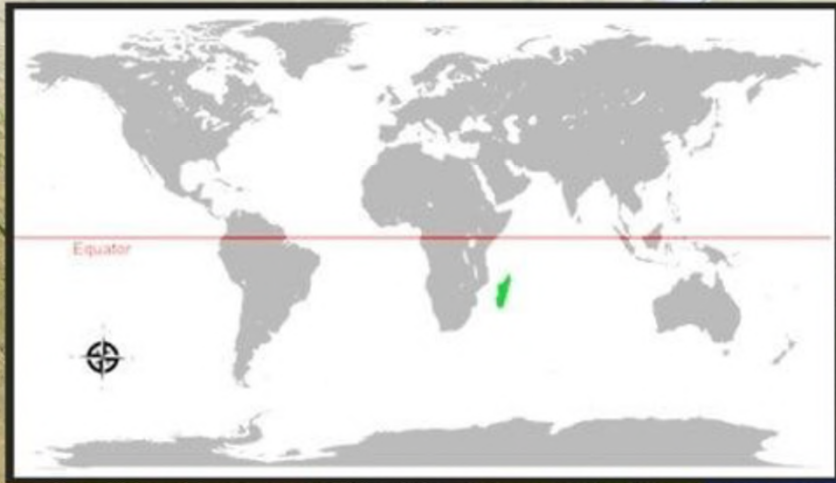
## Elephant Bird Facts

- Lived in Madagascar off the coast of East Africa
- Became extinct in the 1600's
- Closest living relative is the Kiwi bird of New Zealand
- Weighed 500 KG (1,100 lbs)
- 3 Meters Tall (9.8 Feet)
- Their eggs were bigger than a human head





# Map of Madagascar





3 Meters

2 Meters

1 Meter

0

