What color is an elephant?
ELMER the elephant
There was once a herd of elephants.

Elephants young, elephants old,
elephants tall or fat or thin.

all happy and all the same colour..

All, that is, except Elmer.
Elmer was not elephant colour.
Elmer was yellow and orange and red and pink and purple and blue and green and black and white.
One night Elmer could not sleep.

He was tired of being different.

Before the other elephants were awake, Elmer slipped quietly away.
Elmer walked through the forest. He met many animals on his way.

Each time Elmer replied:

“Good evening”
Whoever heard of a patchwork elephant?

Elmer found a lake.
He looked at his reflection in the water.

Elmer started to cry.
“Don’t be sad .” said the Hippo.

“But I want to be Grey like you!” replied Elmer.
After a long walk Elmer found what he wanted...

berries
Elmer caught hold of the tree and shook it and shook it so the berries fell on the ground.
Then he picked up a bunch of berries and rubbed all over, covering himself with berry juice...

until there was not any yellow, or orange, or red, or pink, or purple, or blue, or green, or black, or white.
After that Elmer set off back to the herd. On the way he passed the other animals again...

“Good morning Elephant”

Each time Elmer smiled and replied:

“Good morning Elephant”
When Elmer arrived all the other elephants were sleeping quietly.

None of them noticed Elmer as he made his way into the middle of the herd.
The elephants were standing absolutely still. Elmer had never seen them so serious before.

Elmer felt bored. So he lifted up his trunk and at the top of his voice shouted:
The Elephants jumped and fell over in surprise!

“Was that Elmer?!”

Then they began to laugh

“Ha Ha Ha Ha!”
As they laughed rain fell on Elmer, washing away the berry juice.

His **patchwork** started to show again!
The elephants all cheered!

"We love your colours Elmer!"
So if you happen to see an ordinary, grey elephant that day you will know it must be Elmer!

The elephants now decorate themselves on that day to celebrate...
Activity 1: Color in the elephants

grey  stripes  spots
stars  triangles  patchwork
Activity 2:
Stick the pictures in the right order
Activity 3: Design your own elephant
Activity 4: Colour in the patchwork pattern

1 = Blue
2 = Green
3 = Red
4 = Orange
5 = Black
6 = Purple
Activity 5:

Use an empty milk carton, glue and coloured paper to make your own Elmer!
Activity 6: Create a collage of Elmer using lots of different materials
Activity 7: Write a comic strip of the story and colour it in.
Activity 8: Cut out and create Elmer masks. Write a script and act out the story as a class.