

When the army reached the city of Saguntum, Hannibal addressed his troops. 'The people of these lands are allies of Rome. We cannot permit this!' he told them. And so the Carthaginians attacked. Huge catapults threw stones at the city's fortifications, battering rams hammered at the gates and flaming arrows were shot over the walls.



The siege lasted for eight long months, until finally the people of Saguntum set fire to the city and surrendered. Then noble Hannibal began the next phase of the campaign. 'We will march over the Alps and take the war to Rome!' he declared.

And so the army started a long march north. As they went, they conquered new lands for Carthage. Some of the local tribes fought bravely, but all were defeated when Surus and the war elephants charged. When they were close to the great Pyrenees, Hannibal took his army east over the hills at the start of the mountain range.



Activities

- 6 Underline the three weapons the Carthaginians used to defeat Saguntum.
- 7 Look at the map on page 4. Circle the modern city closest to Saguntum.

Málaga

Cartagena

Barcelona

Valencia

After they crossed the Pyrenees, the army entered the lands of the Gauls and turned inland. When they came to a broad river, the warriors became nervous. 'Lord Hannibal, the river is too wide,' they said. 'The elephants cannot cross.' In answer, the general walked over to Surus and climbed on to his back. Surus trumpeted loudly and charged forwards.



Holding his trunk above the water, Surus swam across the river carrying Lord Hannibal. More than 30 other elephants followed him. That evening, Hannibal came to Surus. 'From now on I will care for you. You are a prince of elephants.' he said.

The days passed and the army marched on towards the snowy Alps. Surus was now far from the warm lands of Africa. The days became shorter and the leaves on the trees started to fall to the ground. Soon it was difficult for the elephants to find food. At night, a cold wind blew and many elephants became sick.

Activities

8 Answer the questions.

- a) Name three modern-day countries that the Alps are in.

.....

- b) Which modern-day country is where the Gauls lived?

9 Why do you think the warriors were nervous? Circle two answers.

- a) Because the elephants were too heavy for boats.
b) Because the elephants were frightened of water.
c) Because they didn't know the elephants could swim.

Story focus

1 Match the places to the events.

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 Cartago Novo | 3 the Pyrenees | 5 the Alps | 7 the river Arno |
| 2 Saguntum | 4 Gaul | 6 the river Trebia | 8 Lake Trasimene |

- a) Hannibal hid most of his army from the Romans and won a great victory.
- b) The marshes and fog were terrible, and Hannibal lost an eye.
- c) Surus and the elephants swam across the river.
- d) The army crossed the mountains and entered Gaul.
- e) Surus and the elephants started their march north.
- f) Surus saved Hannibal from falling and lost a tusk.
- g) Hannibal won another victory and then sent Surus back to Africa.
- h) There was a siege.

2 Use your imagination. Choose and rewrite a description, using adjectives and other colourful language. You can also use descriptive phrases from the story.

In the Po and Arno valleys there were marshes. It rained and snowed, and it was foggy. There was no food for the elephants. The elephants were very cold.

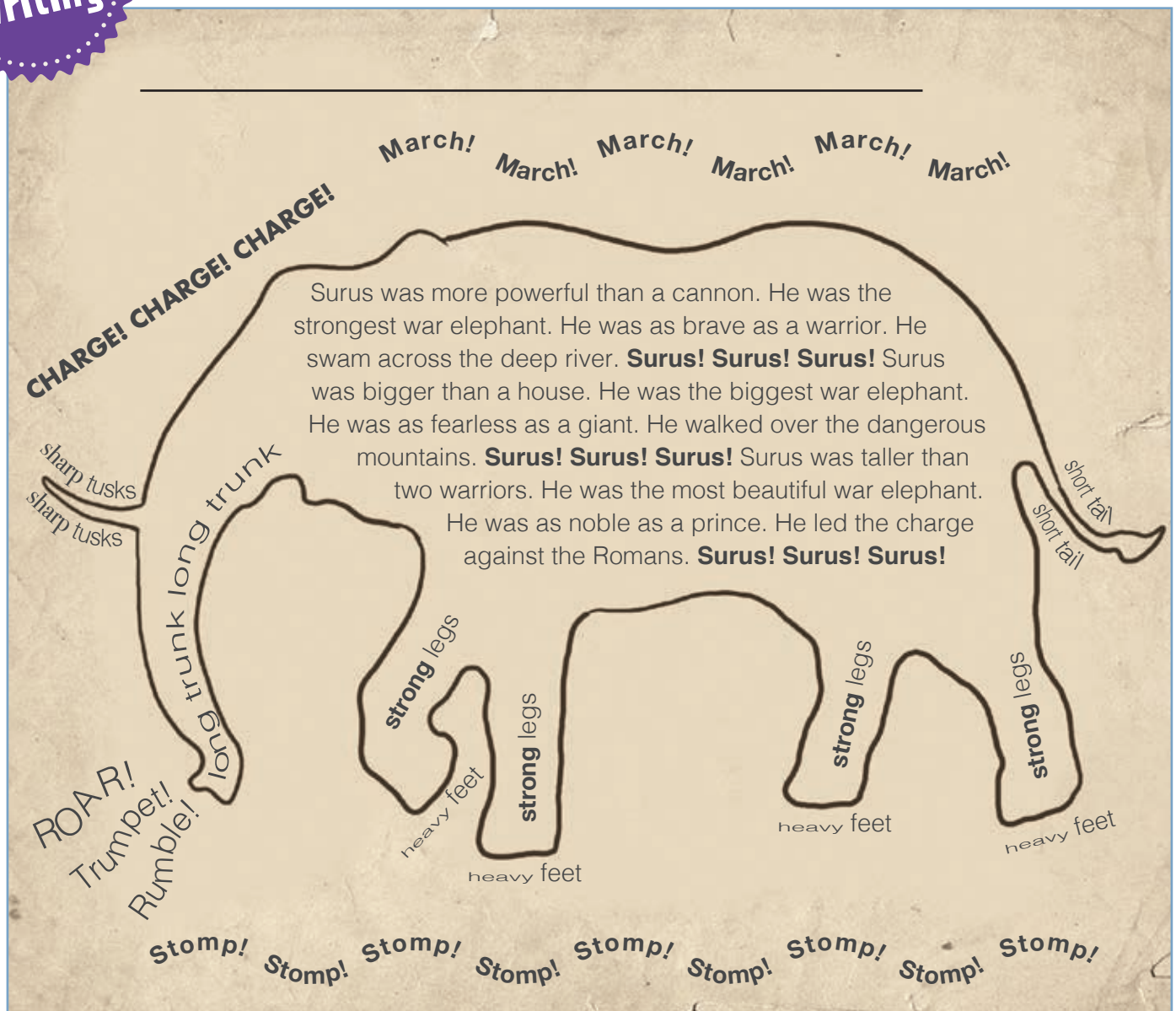
The elephants walked on paths over the Alps. The paths were narrow. It was raining and snowing. It was also windy.

3 Is it acceptable to use animals in war? Discuss the question with a classmate.

I think it's
wrong/cruel/unfair
because...

I think it's
right/fair/acceptable
because...

Creative writing



1 Write a title for the shape poem.

2 Find and write more examples from the poem.

- an adjective and noun phrase to describe body parts, e.g. *sharp tusks*
- a comparison with a physical description, e.g. *Surus was taller than two warriors.*
- a superlative with a physical description, e.g. *He was the biggest war elephant.*
- a comparison with a character description, e.g. *He was as noble as a prince.*
- a special achievement, e.g. *He swam across the deep river.*
- a sound, e.g. *Trumpet!*
- a verb of movement, e.g. *March!*

3 Compare your examples with a classmate.