



Jaipur, city in the Rajasthan state.

The Elephant festival is held in Jaipur, which is a city in northern India. It is usually held on or just before the Holi festival (festival of colours) in March. The people of Jaipur decorate their elephants with vibrant colours, pretty saddle cloths and heavy jewellery. The most beautiful elephant is awarded the winning prize.



The caretakers decorate their elephant's forehead with head plates and they place gold and silver bracelets on their tusks. The elephant's skin is painted and jewellery is attached to their tusks and legs. Sparkling cloth (saddle cloth) is then draped over the elephant's back. The caretakers also get dressed in beautiful clothing to parade their elephant through the crowd.



Look at these elephant faces: what patterns can you see? What colours can you see? How was the design created?



Look at these elephants: what patterns can you see? What colours can you see? Which parts of the elephant have been decorated?

The elephant festival happens once a year in India. Some animal activists think this artistic festival is cruel. They think that decorating the elephants can harm them and make them feel uncomfortable. The festival was once cancelled for two years in a row in 2013 and 2014.



What do you think about this? Do you agree? Or do you think it is nice to decorate elephants once a year?

Follow these steps to make a 3-D elephant for the elephant festival.

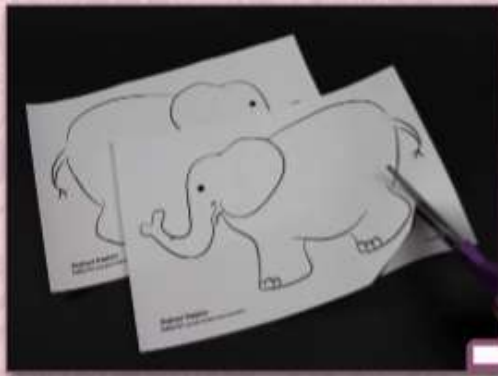
1. Cut out the two Elephant Templates and place them on top of each other.
2. Use a stapler to staple around the elephant but make sure you **leave the top open** so you can stuff your elephant later.
3. Decorate your elephant using paint, crayons, pastels, coloured pencils, glitter and sequins.
4. Don't forget to do the same on the other side.
5. Get some cotton wool and carefully push it into the elephant's legs and body. Once you have enough stuffing, staple the top of your elephant.
6. Finally, make a **saddle cloth** and some **ankle bracelets** to glue onto your elephant.

Now your elephant is ready for an elephant fashion parade.

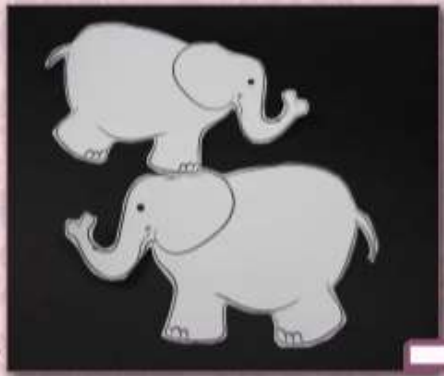
If you can think of another way to make a 3D elephant and would prefer to do it that way , then go ahead.

Make sure you can still decorate it in the same way .

Send in a photo of your elephant.



Get the two elephant templates off your teacher and find some scissors to cut them out.



Once they are cut out you will have two elephants that face the opposite way.



Lay the blank side of both elephants on top of one another and start stapling the legs and lower body together.



Remember to leave a gap at the top so you can stuff your elephant later.



Decorate your elephant using coloured pencils, pens, pastels, crayons or craft material. Remember to do the other side too.



Once you have finished the decorations find some cotton wool or tissue paper and stuff your elephant.



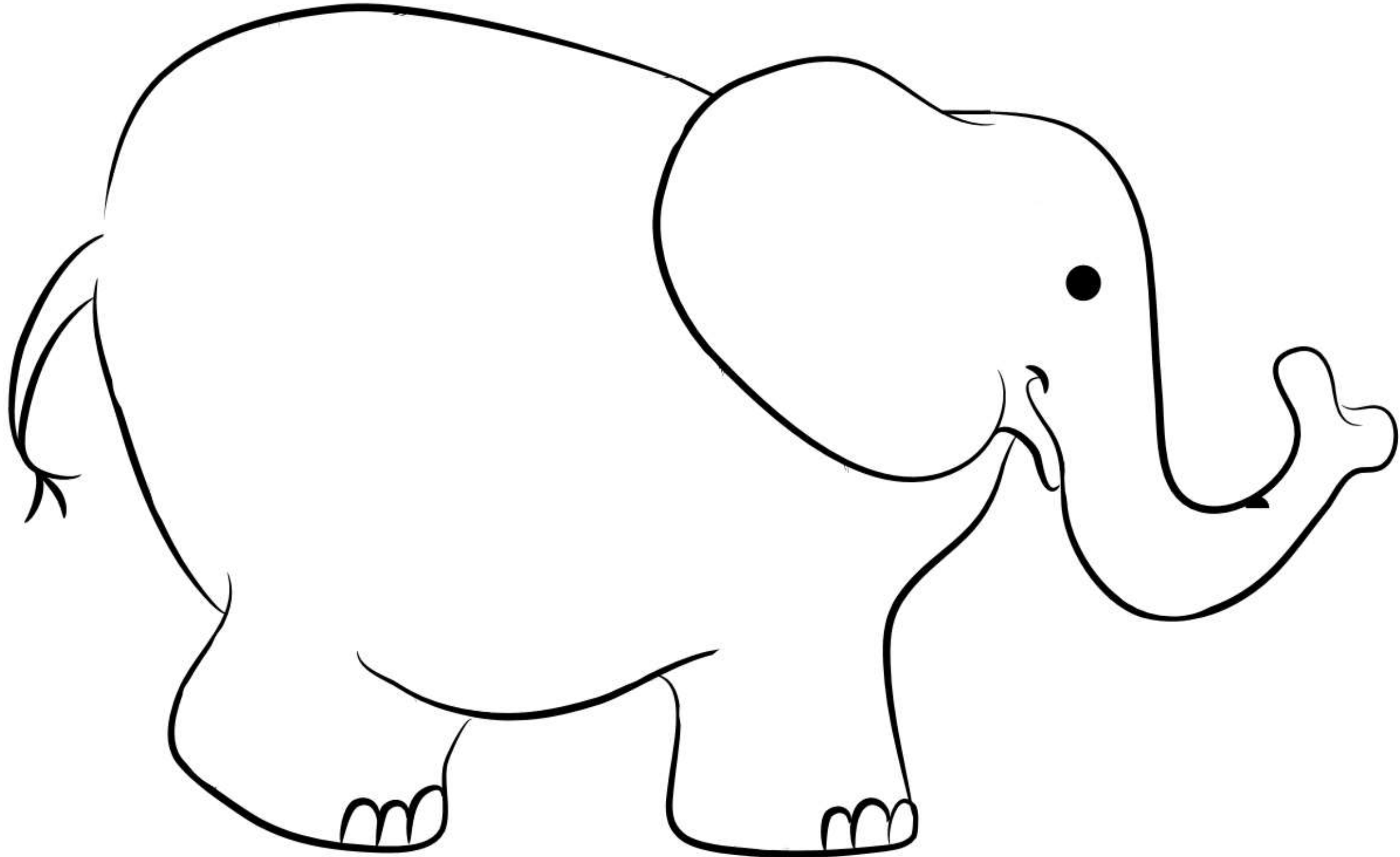
Once you have put enough stuffing in, staple the elephant closed.

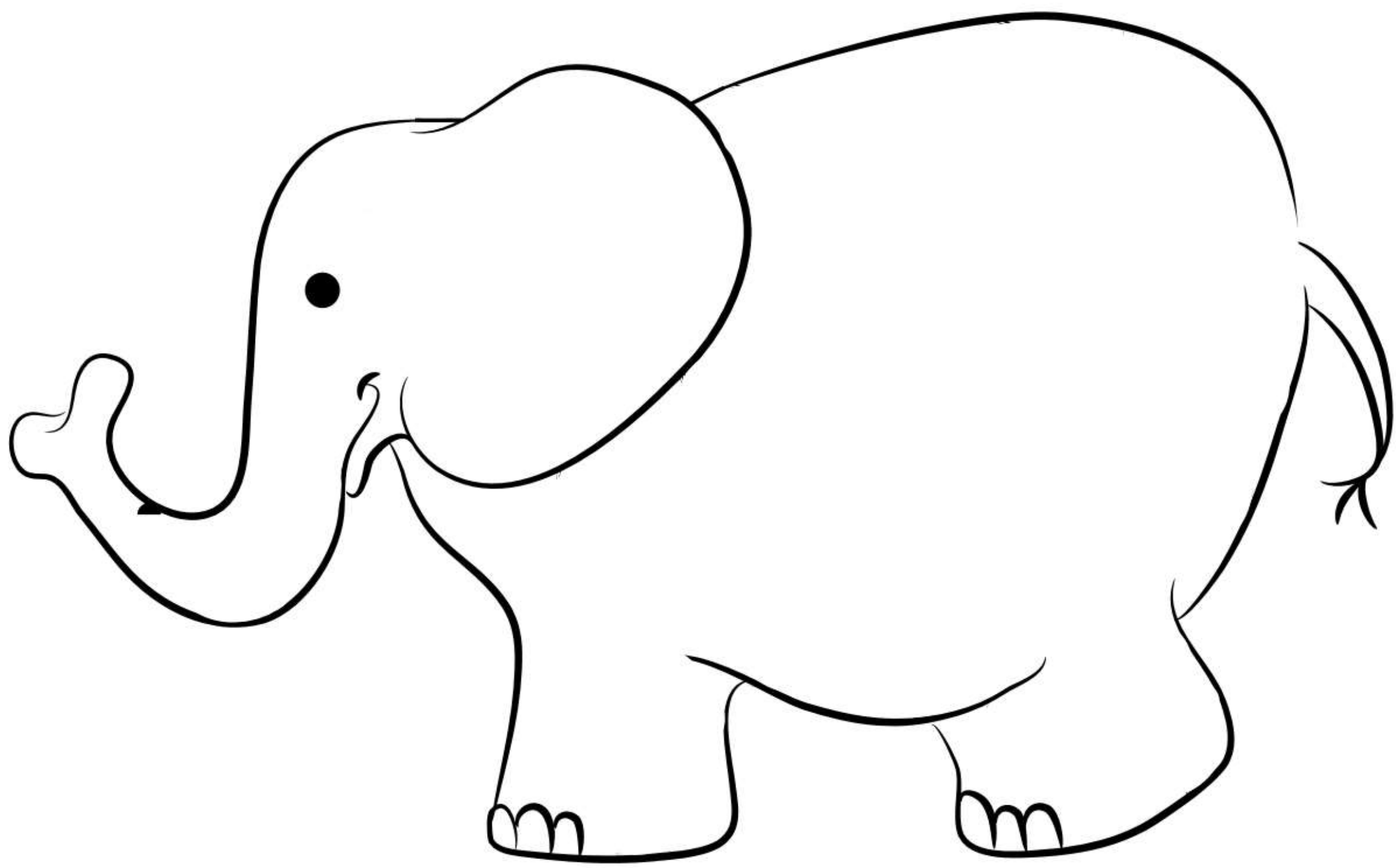


For an extra challenge you could make a saddle cloth and some ankle bracelets to add to your elephant.

What else could you add?

You could make more than one elephant and have your own elephant parade.





Imagine you live in Jaipur and the animal activists banned the elephant festival forever. What other objects could you decorate so you could still enjoy the Holi festival of colours?

