Lesson Plan: AI Digital 'Elephant Book' for Conservation (1 Hour)

Grade Level: Elementary (Grades 4-6)
Subject: Technology, Language Arts, Science (Animal Studies, Conservation)

Canadian Curriculum Connections:

- **Language Arts:** Writing, storytelling, digital literacy.
- **Science:** Animal habitats, conservation, technology in science.
- **Technology:** Basic AI concepts, digital creation tools.
- **Social Studies (Optional):** Global awareness, environmental responsibility.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will understand the importance of elephant conservation.
- Students will learn basic concepts of AI and its application in conservation.
- Students will create a digital story about elephants using AI tools.
- Students will develop digital literacy skills.

Materials:

- Computers or tablets with internet access.
- AI image generation tools (e.g., Google's ImageFX, Bing Image Creator, or a simplified text-to-image tool).
- Digital storytelling platform (e.g., Google Slides, Canva, or a simple online book creator).
- Images and videos of elephants (Mara Elephant Project resources are excellent). See 'Mara the Elephant' an AI created elephant at the end of this lesson plan for all the information you need about elephants!
- Whiteboard or projector.

Lesson Breakdown (60 Minutes): (1) Introduction (10 minutes):

- Begin with a brief discussion about elephants:
    - "What do you know about elephants?"
    - "Where do they live?"
    - "Why are they important?"

- Show images and videos of elephants, emphasizing their social behavior and the challenges they face (habitat loss, poaching).

● Introduce the Mara Elephant Project and explain how they use technology to protect elephants.

● Briefly explain what AI is in simple terms. (Example: AI helps computers create images and understand words, much like a helper.)

(2) AI Image Generation (15 minutes):

● Demonstrate how to use a simple AI image generation tool.
● Provide prompts related to elephants and their habitat (e.g., "an elephant in a savanna," "a baby elephant playing," "an elephant drinking water").
● Students create their own AI-generated images of elephants.
● Explain that the images they create can help create a digital book.

(3) Digital Storytelling (25 minutes):

● Introduce the digital storytelling platform.
● Guide students on how to:
    ○ Create slides or pages.
    ○ Insert their AI-generated images.
    ○ Add text to tell a story about elephants.
● Encourage students to focus on:
    ○ Elephant behavior.
    ○ Conservation messages.
    ○ Facts about elephants.
● Explain how the stories they create can help others learn about elephants.
● Example story lines could be: "The journey of a baby elephant" or "How people are helping the Elephants".

(4) Sharing and Reflection (10 minutes):

● Students share their digital elephant books with the class.
● Discuss the importance of using technology for conservation.
● Ask students:
    ○ "What did you learn about elephants?"
    ○ "How can we help protect elephants?"
    ○ "How can technology help animals?"
● Discuss how the Mara Elephant project uses technology to track and protect elephants.

Assessment:

● Observe students' participation and engagement.
● Review the digital elephant books for content and creativity.
● Assess students' understanding of elephant conservation and AI concepts.

Differentiation:

- For younger students, provide simpler prompts and pre-made templates.
- For advanced students, encourage them to research specific elephant behaviors or conservation efforts.
- Provide pre-written sentences for students that have trouble with writing.

Extension Activities:

- Research other animal conservation projects that use technology.
- Create a class presentation about elephant conservation.
- Write letters to conservation organizations.

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