



# The African Elephant

**Skin:** Elephant skin is wrinkled. The wrinkles help the elephant stay cool.

**Ears:** The ears keep the elephant cool by giving off heat. African elephants have larger ears than Asian elephants.

**Head:** An elephant's head has many hollow places. But the elephant's brain is the largest of any land animal. It weighs about 12 pounds (5.4 kg).

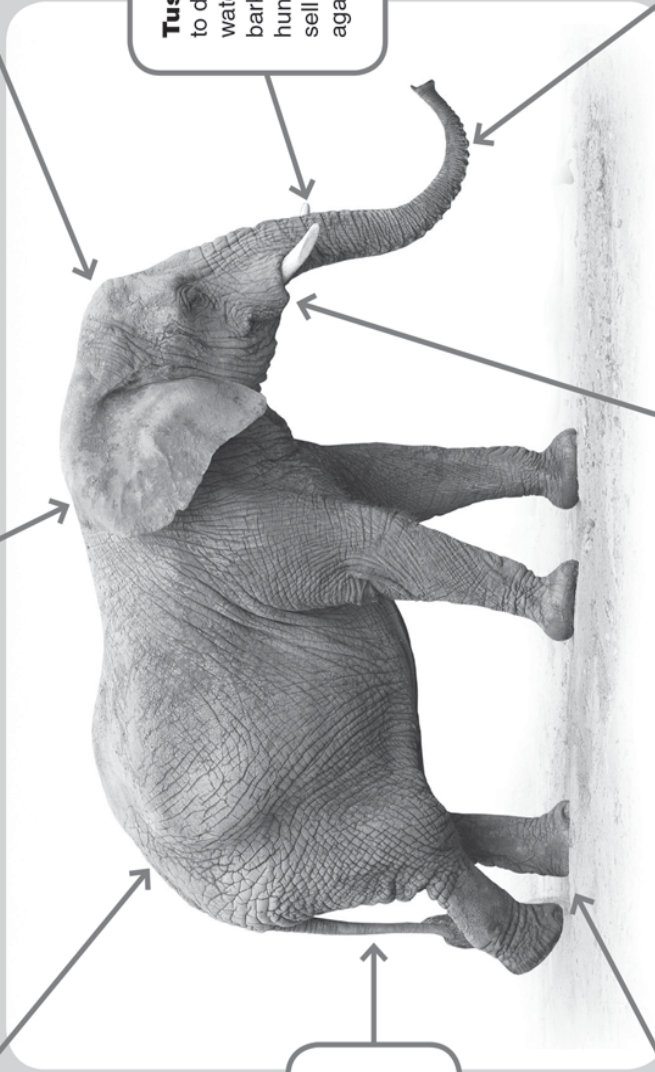
**Tusks:** They are used to dig up the ground for water and to peel off tree bark. Sadly, some people hunt elephants so they can sell the ivory tusks. This is against the law.

**Legs and Feet:** These are built to carry the elephant's mighty weight.

**Teeth:** Elephants chew plants with their teeth. They do not hunt other animals for food.

**Trunk:** The elephant uses its trunk to breathe, to put food in its mouth, to spray dust on its back, and to spray water into its mouth. The trunk can make loud trumpeting sounds.

**Tail:** A swishing tail can brush off insects. A baby elephant sometimes grabs its mother's tail with its trunk.





**Words to Know**  
**Elephant Families**

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African  
matriarch  
male  
intelligent  
memories  
dry spell  
rumbling  
approaches  
attack  
trumpeting

**Elephants Live Together ■**

**Words to Know**  
**An Elephant Herd**

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African  
matriarch  
appears  
male  
intelligent  
memories  
dry spell  
rumbling  
approaches  
usually  
attack  
trumpeting

**Elephants Live Together ■■**

**Words to Know**  
**How Elephants Live**

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African  
female  
matriarch  
approaching  
intelligent  
memories  
dry spell  
rumbling  
unable  
soles  
usually  
attack  
trumpeting

**Elephants Live Together ■■■**



# Elephant Families

African elephants live together in a herd. They all take care of each other. The leader of the herd is an old mother elephant. She is the matriarch. The other elephants are daughters, sisters, cousins, and babies. They follow the matriarch because she guards the family from danger. Adult male elephants go off to live on their own and start families.



**Elephants rub against each other and touch each other with their trunks.**



**Elephants sip water through their trunks and spray it into their mouths to drink.**

Elephants are intelligent animals. Young elephants learn by copying other elephants. Elephants live to be 50 or 60 years old. They have long memories. A matriarch can remember where to find water even in a dry spell. The herd will follow her there. She can also remember the safest place to cross a fast-moving river.

Elephants talk to each other with low rumbling sounds. Some rumbling sounds are so deep that people cannot hear them. Elephants have lots of feeling in their skin. So they greet each other by touch. They use their trunks and feet. If danger approaches, mothers flap their ears to call their babies. The adult elephants circle around the babies.

Other animals do not often attack elephants. But a lion might try to attack a sick elephant or a baby. If this happens, the elephants make loud trumpeting sounds. They also hit the ground with their trunks. The matriarch puts herself in front of the herd. She flaps her ears out wide. This makes her look even larger. Then she lowers her head and charges the enemy in a big cloud of dust.

# Elephant Families

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. A matriarch \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ⓐ is the youngest adult male  
Ⓑ lives on her own  
Ⓒ keeps the herd from harm
2. The fact that elephants have long memories shows that they \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ⓐ take care of each other  
Ⓑ are intelligent  
Ⓒ are a family
3. Give an example of an adaptation, or feature, that helps elephants stay alive.

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4. From which paragraph can you infer that elephants need a water supply? Write a sentence from the paragraph to support your answer.

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5. If you were a scientist, which feature of elephants would you like to study?

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### Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Imagine you are a baby elephant. Write about one day in your life. Give details that tell about life in a herd.



# An Elephant Herd

African elephants travel in a herd. All of the elephants in the herd take care of each other. The leader of the herd is an old mother elephant. She is the matriarch. The other elephants follow the matriarch because she knows how to guard the family if danger appears. Adult male elephants go off to live on their own and start families.



**The herd follows its matriarch.**

Elephants are intelligent animals with long memories. They learn from other elephants and from living a long life. Elephants live to be 50 or 60 years old. A matriarch can remember where to find water even in a dry spell. The herd will follow her there. She can also remember the safest place to cross a fast-moving river.

Elephants talk to each other with rumbling sounds. Some rumbling sounds are so deep that people's ears cannot hear them. If danger approaches, the rumbling stops. Everyone is on guard. Mothers flap their ears to call their babies to them. The adult elephants circle around the baby elephants to keep them safe. Baby elephants stay with their mothers until they are fully grown at ten years old.

Other animals do not usually attack elephants. However, a lion might try to attack a sick elephant or a baby. If this happens, the elephants make trumpeting sounds and hit the ground with their trunks. The matriarch puts herself between the lion and the herd. She flaps her ears out to make herself look even larger. Then she lowers her head and charges the enemy in a big cloud of dust.

# An Elephant Herd

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. Being part of a group helps elephants \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ⓐ travel a long distance  
Ⓑ defend themselves  
Ⓒ live on their own
2. Two of the sounds made by elephants are \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ⓐ trumpeting and rumbling  
Ⓑ remembering and guarding  
Ⓒ charging and flapping
3. Explain how memory is an adaptation, or feature, that helps elephants stay alive.

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4. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

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5. Write a sentence or two about what you think is most interesting about elephants.

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### Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Imagine you are a matriarch. Write about one day in your life. Give details that tell about life in a herd.





# How Elephants Live

Elephants are the largest land animals alive today. African elephants live in tight family groups called herds. All of the elephants in the herd take care of each other. The leader of the herd is an old female elephant. She is the matriarch. A herd may have as few as eight or as many as 100 elephants. The other elephants follow the matriarch because she knows how to keep them safe from approaching danger.

Elephants learn by watching and copying other elephants, and from life. Baby elephants stay with their mothers until they are fully grown at about ten years old. Elephants live to be 50 or 60 years old. Elephants are intelligent animals with long memories. In a dry spell, a matriarch can remember where water was found in the past. The herd will follow her there. She can also remember the safest place for baby elephants to cross a fast-moving river.



**The herd has followed its matriarch across a river.**

Elephants talk to each other with low rumbling sounds. Some rumbling sounds are so deep that people are unable to hear them. Elephants hear sounds with their ears, the soles of their feet, and even their trunks. They also greet each other by touching with their trunks and feet. If danger approaches, mothers flap their ears to call their babies to them.

Other animals do not usually attack elephants. However, a lion might try to attack a sick elephant or a baby. If this happens, the adult elephants circle around the baby elephants. The adults make loud trumpeting sounds and hit the ground with their trunks. The matriarch puts herself between the lion and the herd. She flaps her ears out to make herself look even larger. Then she lowers her head and charges the enemy in a big cloud of dust.

## How Elephants Live

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. The matriarch of a herd is \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ⓐ forgetful  
Ⓑ young  
Ⓒ wise
2. Because of the elephant's great size, it can \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ⓐ frighten its enemy  
Ⓑ move quickly  
Ⓒ learn from life

3. What is the importance of the herd's matriarch?

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4. How does an elephant's memory help it to live a long life?

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5. What do you think was the most interesting part of this text?

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### Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Compare an elephant herd with a human family.  
Write about some of the things they have in common.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

**America's First Citizen**

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

- 1. Ben Franklin learned the printer's trade \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Ⓐ in school
  - Ⓑ when he was twelve years old
  - Ⓒ after he ran away to Philadelphia

- 2. Franklin made paper money with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Ⓐ his brother
  - Ⓑ vegetable prints
  - Ⓒ leaf prints

3. Did Ben Franklin value reading? Support your answer.

\* Yes. Though he only went to school for two years, he saved up to buy books so he could learn.

4. Do you think Ben made the right choice when he ran away? Explain.

\* Yes, because his brother wouldn't allow Ben to write and got angry when Ben proved he could.

5. What do you think of Franklin's ideas to prevent people from making fake paper money?

\* He had clever ideas that would make it hard for someone to print fakes.

**Write About the Topic**

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

"Lost time is never found again." Explain what you think this proverb means. Give an example.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Ben Works to Get Ahead**

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

- 1. A proverb is a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Ⓐ clever saying
  - Ⓑ calendar
  - Ⓒ star chart

- 2. Franklin printed leaves on paper money to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Ⓐ make it look nice
  - Ⓑ save time
  - Ⓒ prevent fakes

3. What do you think people thought about Ben Franklin when they saw him with his wheelbarrow?

\* That he was a hard worker and a good printer because he was always busy.

4. Did Ben make the right choice in running away to Philadelphia? Explain.

\* Yes, because in a few years he was able to have his own print shop and his own newspaper.

5. Why do you think thousands of copies of *Poor Richard's Almanack* sold every year?

\* It had interesting and useful things printed in it, and also clever sayings. Ben was a good writer.

**Write About the Topic**

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

"Speak little, do much." Explain what you think this proverb means. How was Franklin an example of this?



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**A Modest Man**

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

- 1. Ben Franklin \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Ⓐ went to college
  - Ⓑ had to work at a young age
  - Ⓒ had a wealthy father

- 2. Ben's brother taught him to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Ⓐ read and write
  - Ⓑ be a printer
  - Ⓒ write for a newspaper

3. Do you think Ben made the right choice when he ran away? Give your reasons.

\* Yes, because he didn't get along with James, and he was able to open his own print shop.

4. Besides his work as a printer, what other things did Franklin accomplish?

\* He was a Founding Father, a scientist, and an inventor. He helped write the Declaration.

5. Ben taught himself by reading a lot. Do you think that fact may have led him to print *Poor Richard's Almanack* for other people? Explain.

\* Yes, maybe he wanted to help other people learn through reading the almanac.

**Write About the Topic**

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

The noblest question in the world is, "What good can I do in it?" How does this proverb apply to Franklin's life?



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Elephant Families**

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

- 1. A matriarch \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Ⓐ is the youngest adult male
  - Ⓑ lives on her own
  - Ⓒ keeps the herd from harm

- 2. The fact that elephants have long memories shows that they \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Ⓐ take care of each other
  - Ⓑ are intelligent
  - Ⓒ are a family

3. Give an example of an adaptation, or feature, that helps elephants stay alive.

\* The elephant's size scares away its enemies. It can flap its large ears out wide to look larger.

4. From which paragraph can you infer that elephants need a water supply? Write a sentence from the paragraph to support your answer.

\* Paragraph 2. "A matriarch can remember where to find water even in a dry spell."

5. If you were a scientist, which feature of elephants would you like to study?

\* I would like to study how elephants talk to each other.

**Write About the Topic**

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Imagine you are a baby elephant. Write about one day in your life. Give details that tell about life in a herd.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

### An Elephant Herd

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

- Being part of a group helps elephants \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A travel a long distance
  - B defend themselves
  - C live on their own
- Two of the sounds made by elephants are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A trumpeting and rumbling
  - B remembering and guarding
  - C charging and flapping
- Explain how memory is an adaptation, or feature, that helps elephants stay alive.
 


\* The matriarch can remember where there is water and lead the herd to it.
- What is the main idea of paragraph 3?
 

\* Elephants warn each other if danger is near in order to guard their babies.
- Write a sentence or two about what you think is most interesting about elephants.
 

\* I think the way elephants take care of their families is most interesting.

**Write About the Topic**  
Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Imagine you are a matriarch. Write about one day in your life. Give details that tell about life in a herd.



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

### How Elephants Live

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

- The matriarch of a herd is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A forgetful
  - B young
  - C wise
- Because of the elephant's great size, it can \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A frighten its enemy
  - B move quickly
  - C learn from life
- What is the importance of the herd's matriarch?
 


\* The matriarch is the leader. She is intelligent and knows how to keep the herd safe.
- How does an elephant's memory help it to live a long life?
 

\* The elephant remembers what to do when it meets danger or needs to find water.
- What do you think was the most interesting part of this text?
 

\* The most interesting part was how elephants can hear with the soles of their feet.

**Write About the Topic**  
Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Compare an elephant herd with a human family. Write about some of the things they have in common.



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Coral Reefs in Danger

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

- One danger to a coral reef is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A cleaner ocean water
  - B the goby
  - C ocean water that is too warm
- Some living things benefit each other in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A an ecosystem
  - B trouble
  - C coral bleaching
- Explain why algae and corals are an example of symbiosis.
 


\* Both the algae and the corals give each other something they need in order to live.
- If you were an ocean scientist, what is one way you could learn if a coral reef was healthy?
 

\* I could look to see if the corals were colorful or if they were bleaching.
- If you could interview an ocean scientist, what question would you ask about coral reefs?
 

\* How many different kinds of corals have you seen?

**Write About the Topic**  
Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Imagine you are a diver in a coral reef. Write about the things you saw on your dive today.



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Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Saving Coral Reefs

Fill in the circle to complete the sentence. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

- A natural enemy of corals is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A the goby
  - B a kind of seaweed
  - C a special kind of algae
- Coral bleaching can happen when \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A there are not enough algae
  - B corals take in algae
  - C gobies eat corals
- What facts from the text show symbiosis between two living things?
 


\* Algae make food that corals need. Corals give nutrients to the algae.
- Some gobies keep their enemies away by giving off poison. Based on what you know about gobies, how would you explain this?
 

\* The goby is able to keep the corals safe because the goby's enemies are afraid of the poison.
- What is the main idea of paragraph 4?
 

\* There are things that people can do to keep coral reefs healthy.

**Write About the Topic**  
Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Imagine you are a diver in a coral reef. Describe the many living things you see there. Tell why you dive.



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