

# African Elephants

*This non-fiction text is about some of the animals that live in Africa. It gives information about elephants: what they are like and how they live.*

The African savannah is made up of grasslands and some shrubs and trees. It can be very hot. Three of the largest animals on Earth live there: elephants, rhinos and hippos.

## Elephants

Elephants are the world's largest land mammal. They need to eat and drink a lot. An elephant can eat over 200 kilograms of food a day. They eat leaves and branches, and sometimes fruit and grass.

Elephants live in groups called herds. An older female elephant called a matriarch usually leads the herd. Male elephants are known as bulls and females are called cows. Cows stay with their family group, but male elephants leave between the ages of 10 and 15.

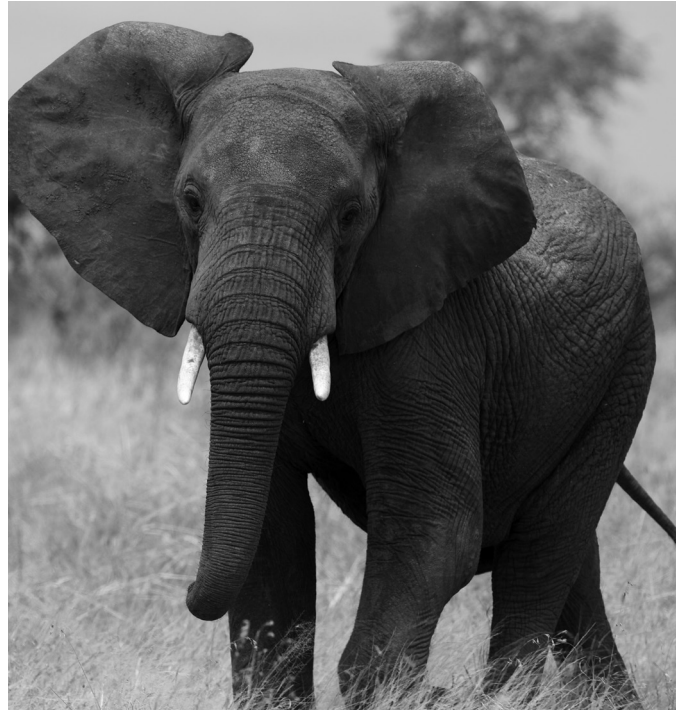
Elephants have the longest pregnancies of any mammal – 22 months. Baby elephants are called calves. All the female elephants in the herd help to look after the calves.

There are about 15,000 muscles in an elephant's trunk! It is part of the elephant's upper lip and nose. Elephants use their trunks to pull down small trees, drink water and pick up bits of food.

An elephant's tusks are made of ivory. They are like teeth and they grow throughout the elephant's life. Tusks are used for looking for food, fighting and digging.

African elephants have huge ears – up to 2 square metres. Flapping their ears helps elephants to keep cool.

Elephants are very peaceful animals. Fully-grown elephants don't have many enemies because they are so big. However, lions or hyenas may attack baby elephants or those who are sick or injured. Elephants can live for up to 70 years.



### Did you know?

A male elephant can weigh up to 6 tonnes!

Name: ..... Class: ..... Date: .....

**1** The text says that the African savannah is a large area of ..... Tick **one**.

- grass and trees
- rivers and lakes
- woods and hills
- mountains and fields

**2** Name **two** animals that live in the savannah.

.....

**3** What is the biggest animal to live on land?

.....

**4** “Elephants are very *peaceful* animals”.  
In this sentence, the word *peaceful* means .....

Tick **one**.

- healthy
- hungry
- calm
- violent

**5** Draw a line to match the information about elephants.

Elephants are pregnant for	up to 70 years.
Male elephants can weigh	22 months.
An elephant’s trunk has	up to 6 tonnes.
Elephants live for	15,000 muscles.

**6** Name **two** things an elephant can use its trunk for.

.....

**7** Find and **copy** the answers to these questions. The first one has been done for you.

What are female elephants called?	cows
What are male elephants called?	
Elephants live in groups. What are these groups called?	
What are baby elephants called?	

**8** “Fully-grown elephants don't have many enemies because they are so big.”  
Which of these phrases is closest in meaning to *enemies*? Tick **one**.

- Animals that elephants can eat.
- Animals that want to help elephants.
- Animals that want to hurt elephants.

**9** How big are elephants’ ears?

.....

**10** Write down **one** fact under each heading.

Where elephants live	What elephants eat	What elephants look like