

All About Elephants

Elephants are the largest of all land mammals on Earth. They have long trunks and large ears and are an impressive sight across Africa and areas of Asia. Elephants are known for being clever and can even recognise themselves in a mirror.



Elephant Herds

Female elephants and their calves live in large groups called herds. These herds are usually led by the oldest and largest female. Incredibly, people have even seen herds of over 100 African savannah elephants.

African Elephants

African elephants are the largest **species** of elephant and can be found in lots of different parts of Africa. All African elephants grow tusks. They use these tusks to do lots of different things, such as lifting things and digging holes.

There are two different types of African elephant. They are called the savannah elephant and the forest elephant.

The savannah elephant is the biggest type of elephant and can also be called the bush elephant. They spend most of their day eating grass and other plants.

The forest elephant is smaller and can be found in wooded rainforests. As they live in rainforests that have lots of trees, it can be difficult to count how many forest elephants are living in one area. Researchers count the number of elephant droppings instead of counting the number of elephants! They then use this to help them to **estimate** how many elephants are living nearby.

Did You Know..?

Baby African elephants have baby tusks just like humans have baby teeth.



Asian Elephants

Asian elephants are smaller than African elephants. They can be identified by the shape of their ears, which are smaller and rounder than those of African elephants.

There are several different types of Asian elephant. The largest of these is the Sri Lankan elephant.

Did You Know..?

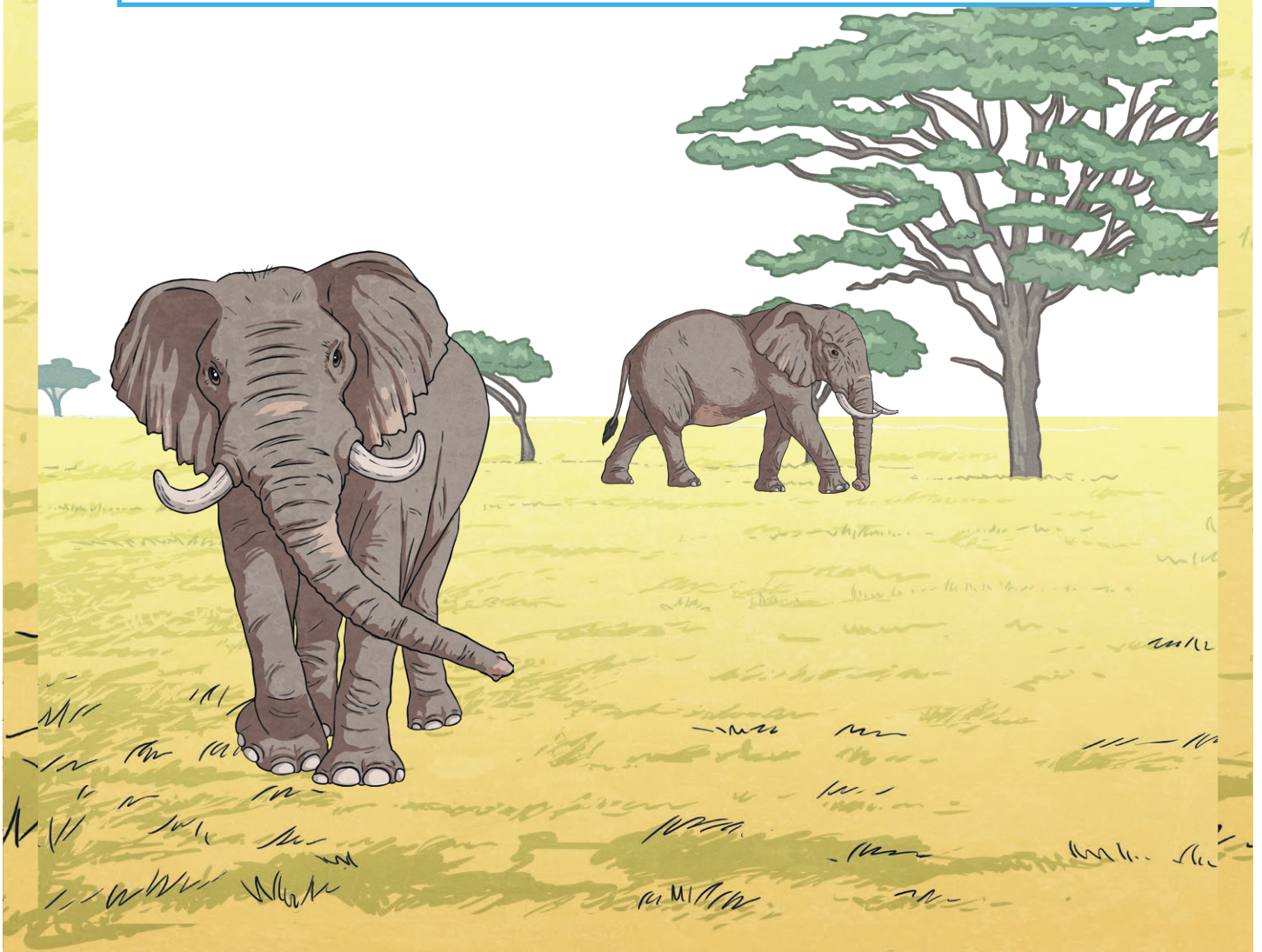
Asian elephants make big footprints. When they're filled with rainwater, these footprints can become tiny ponds for frogs and their tadpoles.

Over the years, elephants have faced different threats. Today, African elephant populations are slowly increasing but Asian elephant populations are decreasing. Many countries have now put laws in place to help to protect these amazing creatures.

Glossary

estimate: To roughly count the number of something.

species: A group of living things that are very similar.



Questions

1. What might you find inside an Asian elephant's footprint? Tick one.

- a goldfish
- a tadpole
- nothing
- an eel

2. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

The savannah elephant...

The forest elephant...

Baby African elephants...

The Sri Lankan elephant...

is the largest type of Asian elephant.

can be difficult to count.

is also known as the bush elephant.

have baby tusks.

3. Which of these statements is **not** true? Tick one.

- The savannah elephant is the largest type of elephant.
- The forest elephant can be found in wooded rainforests.
- There is only one type of Asian elephant.
- All African elephants grow tusks.

4. Where can you find wild elephants? Tick **two**.

- Africa
- Antarctica
- Asia
- Europe

5. Why might it be difficult to find out how many forest elephants are living in one area?

6. Look at the first paragraph.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'spot'.

7. Do you think that people should protect elephants? Explain your answer.
