

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## What Does an Elephant Eat?

Elephants are herbivores, which means they eat plants and do not consume meat. These gentle giants spend much of their day eating, as they need a large amount of food to stay healthy and strong. An adult elephant can eat up to 300 pounds of food in a single day!

Elephants mainly eat grass, leaves, fruits, and bark from trees. During the rainy season, they prefer fresh grasses and leaves. In the dry season, they rely more on bark and roots since other plants become harder to find. Their long trunks help them reach high branches, and they use their tusks to peel bark from trees.

Water is also very important for elephants. They drink up to 50 gallons of water a day. Elephants often use their trunks to suck up water and spray it into their mouths. They also enjoy playing and bathing in water to keep cool.

Elephants need to eat so much food because they are very large animals. Their big bodies require a lot of energy, which they get from the plants they eat. They spend about 16 hours a day feeding to get enough nutrients.

Elephants are important for the environment. As they move and eat, they help spread seeds, which allows plants to grow in new areas. They also create pathways through forests, which helps other animals find food and water too.