

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Elephant Predators and Threats

Elephants are among the largest animals on land, which makes them difficult prey for most predators. However, they still face dangers in the wild from both natural predators and human activities.

Young elephants, especially calves, are more vulnerable to predators. Lions, hyenas, and crocodiles may attack young elephants if they are separated

from the herd. The herd's protective nature usually helps keep calves safe, as adult elephants work together to guard them from harm.

One of the greatest threats to elephants comes from human interference. Habitat loss due to deforestation and land development has made it harder for elephants to find food and water. Poaching for ivory is another serious danger, as elephants are often hunted illegally for their tusks.

Elephants also face environmental challenges such as droughts and food shortages. As they require a large amount of food and water each day, changes in the environment can make survival difficult. Diseases and parasites can also affect elephants. For example, the elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV) can be deadly to young elephants.

To stay healthy, elephants rely on their herds. Herd members help protect the young, find food, and locate water sources. Elephants also take dust baths to keep their skin clean and cool, which helps prevent infections and insect bites.

Conservation efforts are essential to protect elephants. National parks, wildlife reserves, and laws against poaching help keep these majestic animals safe. Education and awareness campaigns also encourage people to respect and protect elephant habitats.