

Name _____

The Elephant's Role in the Ecosystem

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Elephants are called "ecosystem engineers" because they shape the landscape and help plants grow.
2. Their large size allows them to create paths, knock down trees, and spread seeds over large areas.
3. Protecting elephants helps protect other animals because they create waterholes and maintain plant growth.
4. If elephants disappeared, plants might overgrow, water sources could dry up, and other animals might struggle to survive.

