

Name _____



The Mighty Elephant

Elephants are some of the most amazing animals on Earth! They are the largest land animals in the world. An adult elephant can weigh between 5,000 and 14,000 pounds, which is as heavy as a small truck! Elephants can also grow to be about 10 to 13 feet tall. Imagine an animal as tall as a basketball hoop!

Elephants have thick, wrinkled skin that is usually gray. Sometimes, their skin may look brownish when they play in mud or dust. Their large ears help them stay cool in the hot weather. The ears are shaped like the continent of Africa if it is an African elephant, or smaller and more rounded if it is an Asian elephant.

One of the most unique features of an elephant is its trunk. The trunk is a long, flexible nose that can pick up objects, drink water, and even spray water like a hose! Elephants also use their trunks to greet each other and show kindness. Another special feature of elephants is their tusks. Tusks are long, curved teeth made of ivory. They help elephants dig for water, strip bark from trees, and protect themselves from danger.

Elephants are known for their gentle nature, but they are also very strong. They live in groups called herds, led by the oldest female, called the matriarch. Baby elephants, called calves, stay close to their mothers and drink milk for the first few years of their lives.

These gentle giants are important to the environment. They help shape the land by creating water holes with their tusks and clearing paths through forests. Sadly, elephants face threats like habitat loss and poaching. People around the world are working hard to protect these magnificent creatures.