

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..?

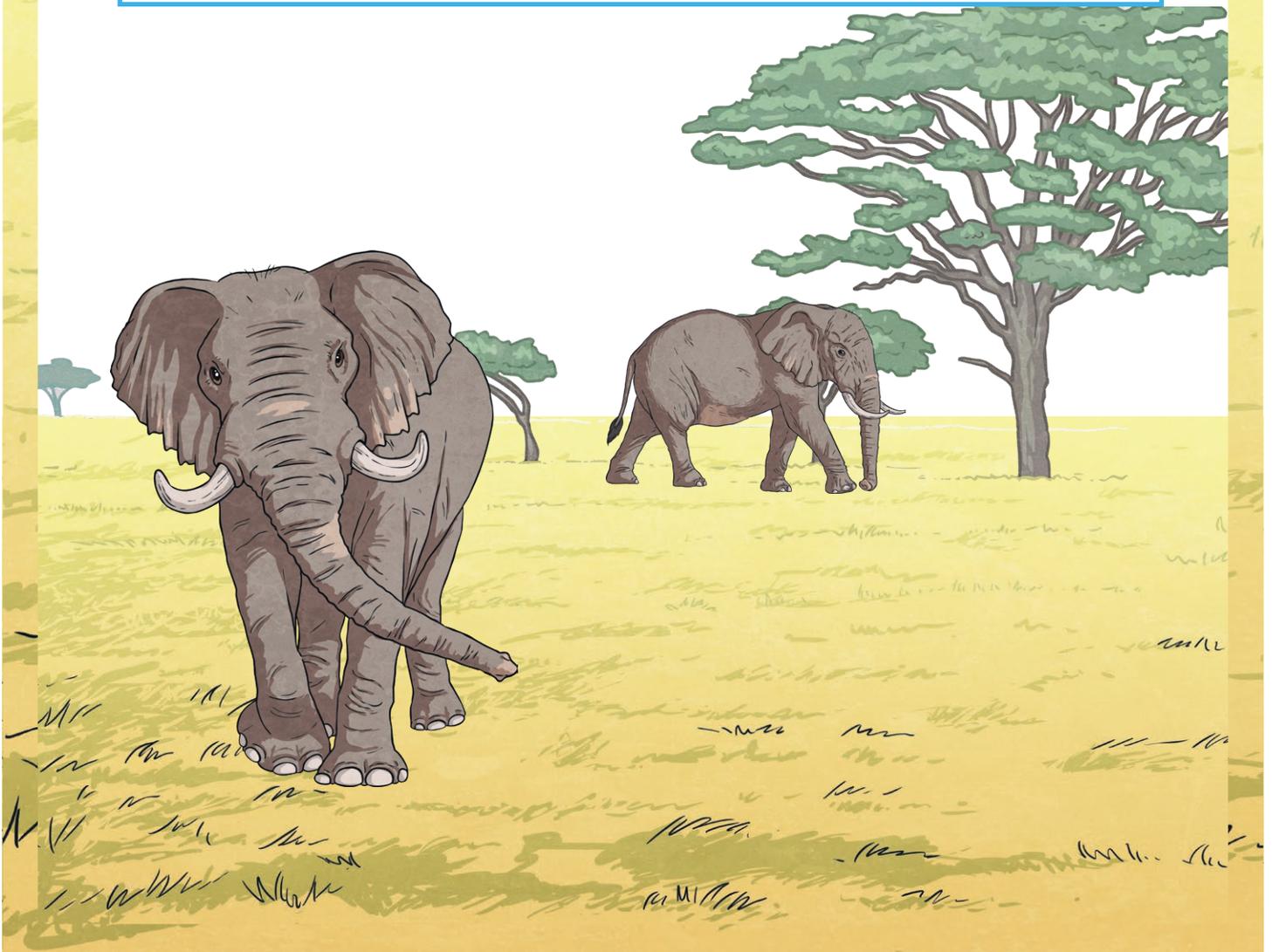
Asian elephants make big footprints. When they're filled with rainwater, these footprints can become tiny ponds for frogs and their tadpoles.

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'.

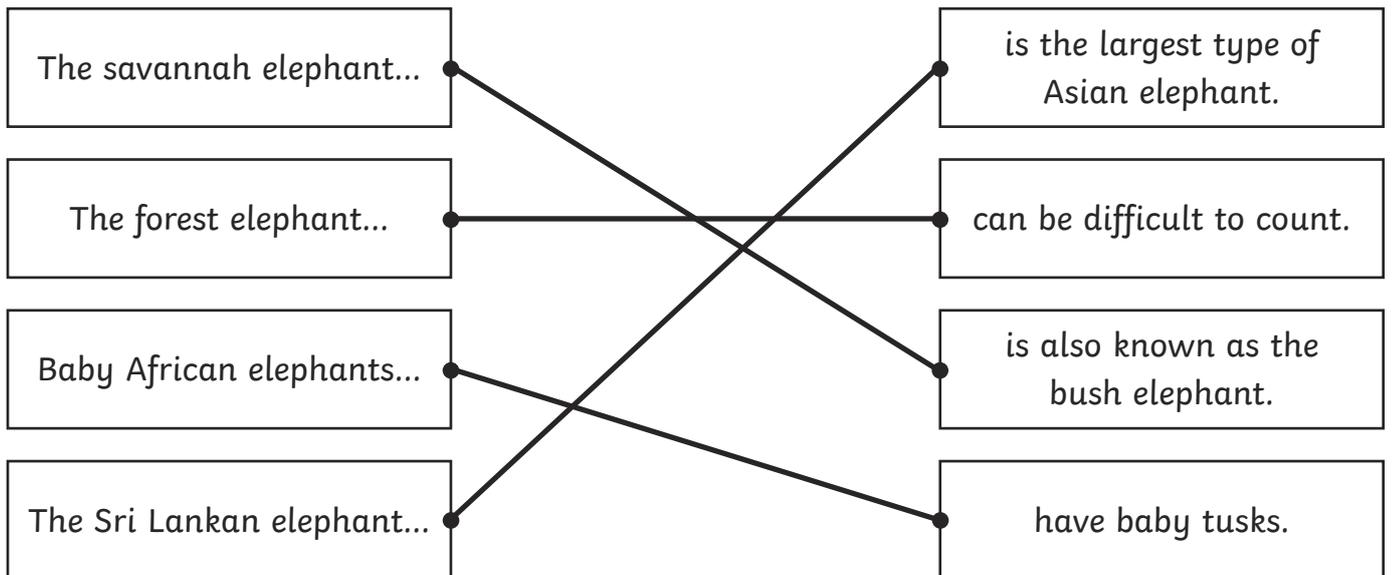
7. Do you think that people should protect elephants? Explain your answer.

Answers

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.



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?

It can be difficult to count how many forest elephants are living in one area because they live in rainforests with lots of trees.

6. Look at the first paragraph.

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

recognise

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think that people should protect elephants because the Asian elephant is endangered and it would be sad if it became extinct.

All About Elephants

Elephants are the largest of all land mammals on Earth. With their long trunks and large ears, they are an impressive sight across Africa and areas of Asia. Elephants are known for being clever and are one of only a handful of animals that can recognise themselves in a mirror.

Elephant Herds

Elephants live in large groups that are made up of female elephants and their calves. These herds are usually led by the oldest and largest female who is called the matriarch. Incredibly, herds of over 100 African savannah elephants have been spotted.



African Elephants

African elephants are the largest species of elephant. All African elephants grow tusks which they use for lots of different tasks, including lifting objects and defending themselves. If they can't find water available nearby, elephants have also been known to dig a hole with their tusks to find water underground.

There are two different types of African elephants. They are called the savannah elephant and the forest elephant. Both can be found in different parts of Africa.

The savannah elephant is the largest type and can be found living in grassy plains and bushlands. They can also be called the bush elephant. Savannah elephants mainly eat grass but have also been known to eat other plants and fruit.

The forest elephant is smaller and can be found in wooded rainforests. Unlike savannah elephants, who can be counted easily in open areas, it is difficult to know how many forest elephants are living in a specific area. Instead, researchers often count the number of droppings to estimate how many forest elephants there are.



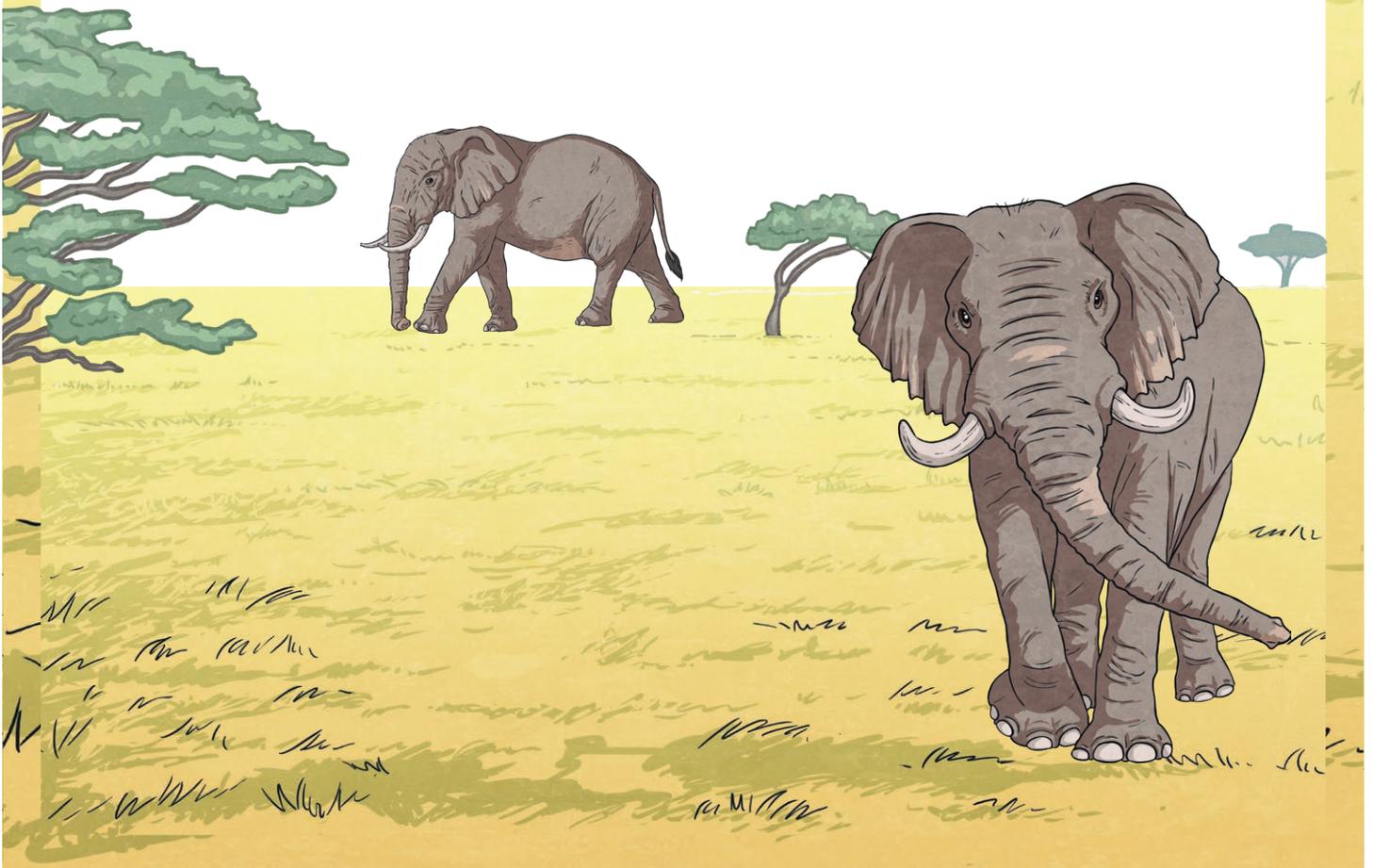
Asian Elephants

Asian elephants are smaller than African elephants and can be found in different parts of Asia. Unlike African elephants, female Asian elephants don't have any tusks. These types of elephants can be identified by the shape of their ears, which are smaller than those of African elephants.



There are several different types of Asian elephant. These include the Sri Lankan elephant, the Indian elephant and the Sumatran elephant. The largest of these is the Sri Lankan elephant. Amazingly, some studies have found that Asian elephant footprints can make an excellent home for frogs and their tadpoles when they're filled with rainwater.

Over the years, elephants have faced a variety of different threats that have led to the number of wild elephants decreasing. While African elephant populations are now slowly increasing, Asian elephant populations are decreasing and they are endangered. Wanting to protect these magnificent creatures, many countries have now put laws in place to help to keep them safe.



Questions

1. Why might an African elephant dig a hole using its tusk? Tick one.

- to help it to lift something
- to help it to defend itself
- to bury a piece of food
- to try and find water

2. Where can the savannah elephant be found? Tick one.

- on grassy plains
- in wooded rainforests
- in parts of Asia
- in mountains

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

Savannah elephants...

Forest elephants...

African elephant
populations...

Sumatran elephants...

are a type of
Asian elephant.

have been seen in herds
of over 100 elephants.

are now
slowly increasing.

can be found in
wooded rainforests.

4. Look at the last paragraph.

Which word tells you that the author likes elephants? Tick one.

- variety
- increasing
- magnificent
- creatures

5. What surprising thing might you find inside an Asian elephant's footprint?

6. Fill in the missing words.

The _____ elephant is the _____ type of elephant.

7. Explain the difference between African elephants and Asian elephants.

8. Which type of elephant would you most like to see in the wild? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Why might an African elephant dig a hole using its tusk? Tick one.

- to help it to lift something
- to help it to defend itself
- to bury a piece of food
- to try and find water**

2. Where can the savannah elephant be found? Tick one.

- on grassy plains**
- in wooded rainforests
- in parts of Asia
- in mountains

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

Savannah elephants...	are a type of Asian elephant.
Forest elephants...	have been seen in herds of over 100 elephants.
African elephant populations...	are now slowly increasing.
Sumatran elephants...	can be found in wooded rainforests.

4. Look at the last paragraph.

Which word tells you that the author likes elephants? Tick one.

- variety
- increasing
- magnificent**
- creatures

5. What surprising thing might you find inside an Asian elephant's footprint?

You might find a frog or a tadpole inside an Asian elephant's footprint.

6. Fill in the missing words.

The **savannah** elephant is the **largest** type of elephant.

7. Explain the difference between African elephants and Asian elephants.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Female African elephants have tusks but female Asian elephants don't. Also, Asian elephants are found in Asia whereas African elephants are found in Africa.

8. Which type of elephant would you most like to see in the wild? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would most like to see a forest elephant in the wild because they are more difficult to see so it would be more exciting.

All About Elephants



Elephants are the largest of all land mammals on Earth. With their lengthy trunks and sizeable ears, they are a distinctive sight in savannahs and rainforests across Africa and areas of Asia. Elephants are known for being clever and are one of only a handful of animals that can recognise themselves in a mirror. In addition, elephants have a famously impressive memory and can remember where different water sources are as they walk across huge distances.

Elephant Herds

Elephants live in large groups called herds. These herds are made up of female elephants and their calves and are typically led by a matriarch. Usually, the matriarch is the oldest and largest female elephant. Incredibly, herds of over 100 African savannah elephants have been spotted in the wild.

African Elephants

African elephants are the largest and heaviest species of elephant. Both male and female African elephants grow tusks which they use for a number of tasks, including lifting and gathering objects and defending themselves. If an elephant can't find any water nearby, they have also been known to dig a hole with their tusks to find water underground.

There are two different types of African elephants: these are the savannah elephant and the forest elephant. Both species of elephant can be found in different parts of Africa.

The savannah elephant, also known as the bush elephant, is the largest of all elephants and can be found in grassy plains and bushlands throughout Africa. Savannah elephants mainly eat grass but have also been known to eat other plants and fruit. On average, an elephant can spend up to 18 hours a day eating.



Smaller than the savannah elephant, the forest elephant can be found in wooded rainforests. Being among thick trees makes forest elephants more difficult to count than savannah elephants, who can be easily spotted on the vast plains. To keep an eye on their population, researchers often count the number of droppings to estimate how many forest elephants are in a specific area.

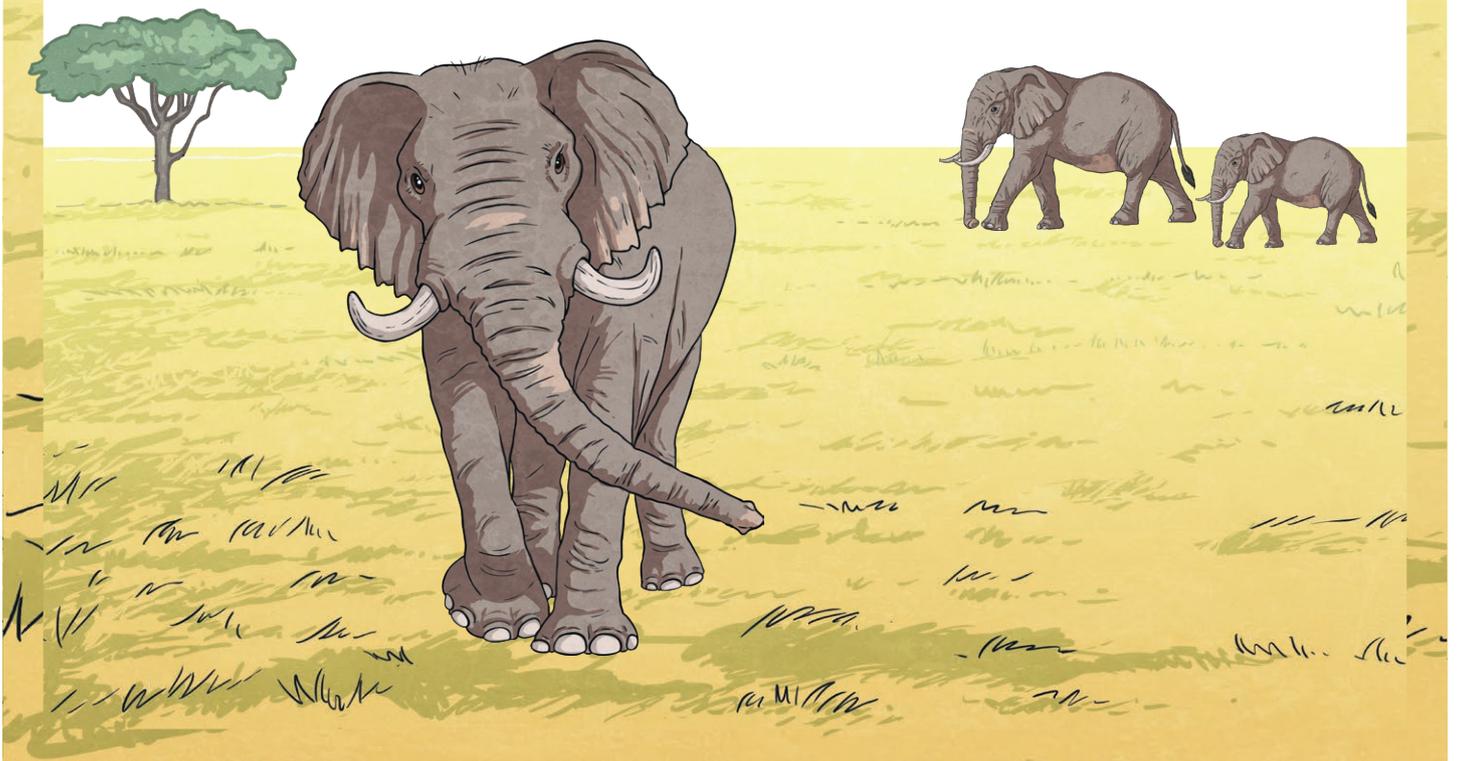
Asian Elephants

Asian elephants are smaller than African elephants and can be found in different parts of Asia. Unlike African elephants, Asian elephant herds are typically smaller and usually contain around six to seven female elephants. Female Asian elephants don't develop tusks. Asian elephants can be identified by the shape of their ears which are smaller than those of African elephants.

There are several different types of Asian elephant. These include the Sri Lankan elephant, the Indian elephant and the Sumatran elephant. The Sri Lankan elephant is the largest and darkest of all Asian elephants. Amazingly, some studies have found that, when filled with rainwater, Asian elephant footprints can make an excellent home for frogs and their tadpoles.



Historically, elephants have faced a variety of different threats that have led to their numbers declining in the wild. While African elephant populations are now slowly increasing, Asian elephant populations are still in decline and they are classed as endangered. To try and increase the number of elephants in the wild, many countries have now put laws in place to help to protect these magnificent creatures and their habitats.



Questions

1. ... they are a distinctive sight in savannahs and rainforests across Africa and areas of Asia. Which of the following definitions is closest in meaning to the word 'distinctive'? Tick one.

- unimpressive
- unique
- smelly
- enormous

2. Which of the following is the largest type of elephant? Tick one.

- the forest elephant
- the Sumatran elephant
- the savannah elephant
- the Indian elephant

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **Smaller than the savannah elephant...** Find and copy one word which means the same as 'large'.

4. On average, how many hours a day can an elephant spend eating?

5. What happens to an Asian elephant's footprint for it to become a home for frogs?

6. Do you think that the author of this text likes elephants? Explain your answer.

7. Explain how the layout of the text helps you to understand the information.

8. Summarise what you have learnt about elephants using 25 words or fewer.

Answers

1. ... **they are a distinctive sight in savannahs and rainforests across Africa and areas of Asia.**
Which of the following definitions is closest in meaning to the word 'distinctive'? Tick one.

- unimpressive
 unique
 smelly
 enormous

2. Which of the following is the largest type of elephant? Tick one.

- the forest elephant
 the Sumatran elephant
 the savannah elephant
 the Indian elephant

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **Smaller than the savannah elephant...**
Find and copy one word which means the same as 'large'.

vast

4. On average, how many hours a day can an elephant spend eating?

On average, an elephant can spend up to 18 hours a day eating.

5. What happens to an Asian elephant's footprint for it to become a home for frogs?

To become a home for frogs and tadpoles, Asian elephant footprints need to be filled with rainwater.

6. Do you think that the author of this text likes elephants? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the author does like elephants because they say things like 'these magnificent creatures' and 'a famously impressive memory' which are opinions that show that you like elephants.

7. Explain how the layout of the text helps you to understand the information.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The layout helps because it has subheadings that split the information about the different types of elephants up in sections. It also uses photos which help you to understand what the different types of elephants look like.

8. Summarise what you have learnt about elephants using 25 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: There are lots of different types of elephants and they live in Africa and Asia. Asian elephants have smaller ears than African elephants.