

Animal Facts:

Elephants

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There are three kinds of elephant. The African forest elephant, of central and west Africa, the savanna elephant, of east and south Africa, and the Asian elephant of India and Southeast Asia.



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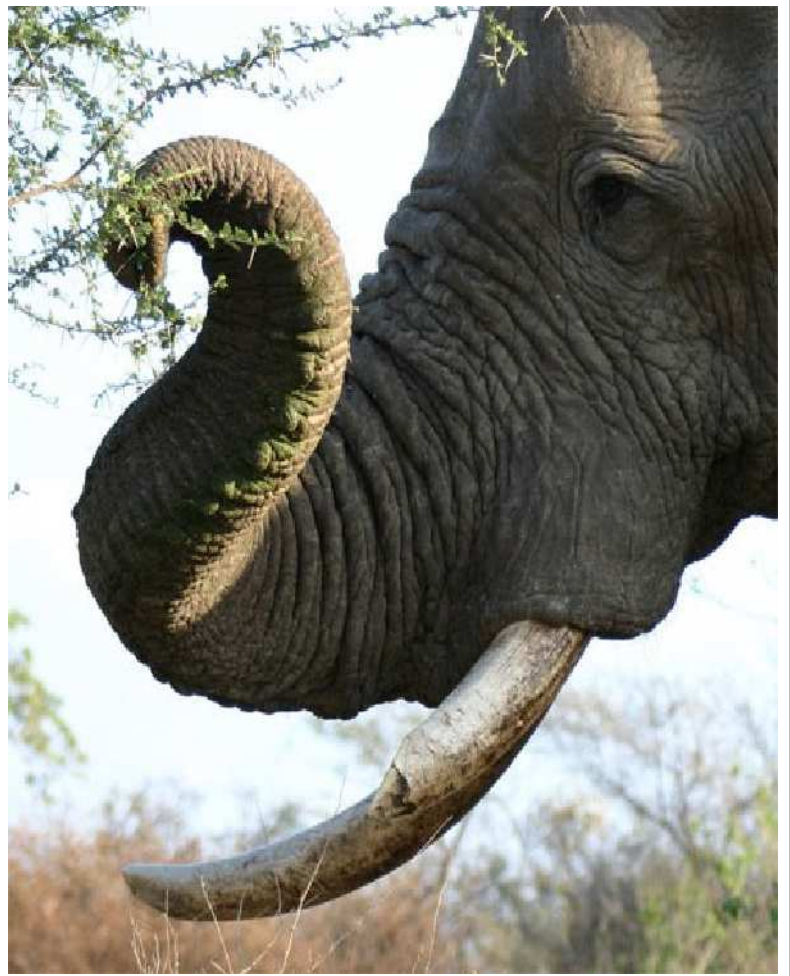
African elephants are the largest land animals, growing as tall as 4 m and weighing more than 6,000 kg.



Asian elephants are smaller than African elephants, with smaller ears and tusks. They also have one finger on the tip of their trunk, while African elephants have two.



The word for an elephants trunk is a proboscis. It is used like a hand to put food into the mouth, or suck up water to squirt into its mouth or over its body to keep cool.



Elephants are very intelligent animals, with the biggest brain of all land animals. They also have very good memories.



Female elephants, called cows, live with their calves and younger bulls (males) in herds of 20 to 30 animals. Older bulls usually live alone.



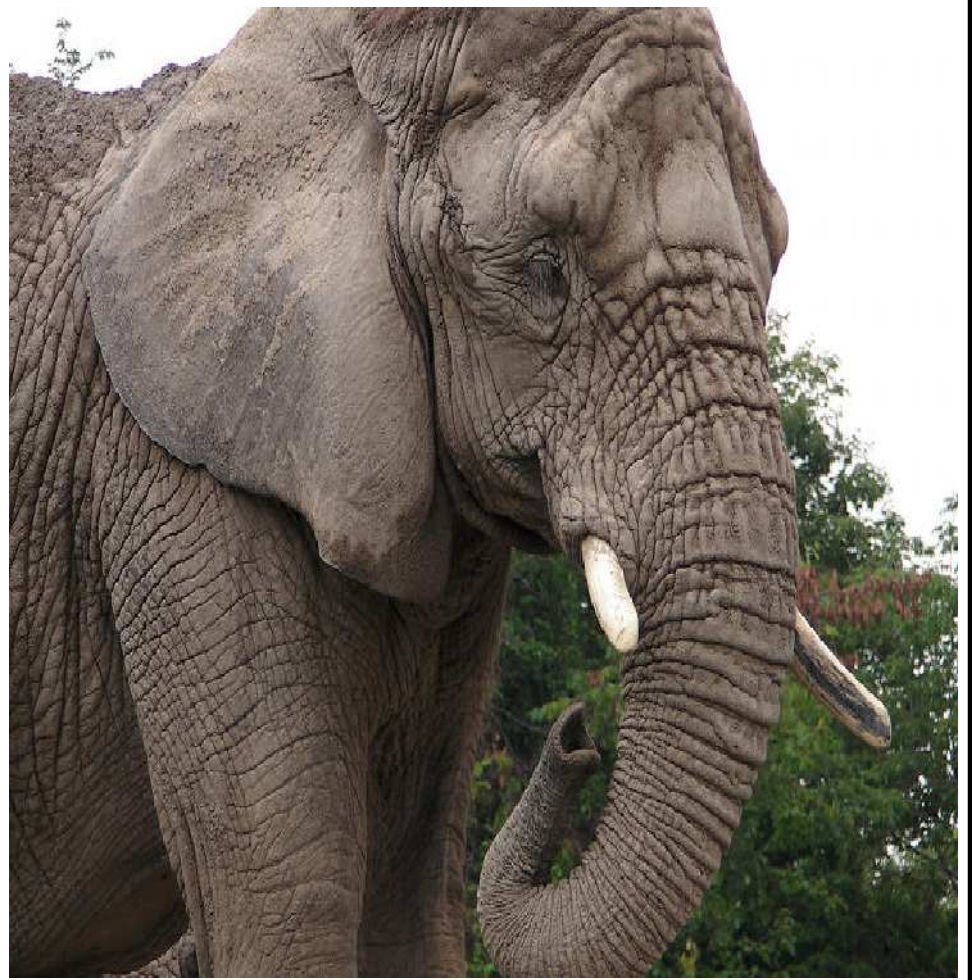
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Once a year, bull elephants go into a state called musth (said must), when male hormones make them very wild and dangerous.



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Elephants usually live for about 70 years.



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When an elephant dies, its companions seem to mourn and cry.



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Elephants use
their trunks
like snorkels
when crossing
deep rivers.

