

## Elephants

Website: <https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/elephant>

Live Camera: <https://www.sdzsafaripark.org/elephant-cam>

Elephants are beautiful, smart, and very big. Enormously big. Unlike many animals, elephant herds are ruled by a matriarch (may-tree-ark), or a female leader. Let's learn more. At the end of this worksheet, you will visit a live elephant camera at the San Diego Zoo and write a sentence or two about what you see. Remember to look at the camera during the day because elephants are diurnal animals.

<b>LIFE SPAN</b>
Late 30s to more than 50 years
<b>YOUNG</b>
Gestation: 20 to 22 months
Number of young: 1
Weight at birth: 110 to 264 pounds (50 to 120 kilograms)
Height at birth: 26 to 42 inches (66 to 107 centimeters)
Maturity: 13 to 20 years old

Let's start by looking at the right side of the website: →

- 1) About how long do elephants live?
  - a) One year
  - b) Twenty years
  - c) Thirty to fifty years
  - d) As long as Galapagos tortoises
  
- 2) About how heavy are elephant babies when they are born?
  - a) Twenty ounces
  - b) Twenty pounds
  - c) Between one hundred and three hundred pounds
  - d) One million pounds
  
- 3) About how many babies do elephants have?
  - a) They lay eggs
  - b) About one baby
  - c) Two to four babies
  - d) More than four babies
  
- 4) Look at the section labeled "Fun Facts". Are elephants too big to swim? Scan the "Fun Facts" for the word "swim."
  - a) No!
  - b) Yes!
  - c) Sharks eat them

Let's go to the section that looks like this:



- 5) Look at the first paragraph. It begins with "Have you 'herd'?" What do the words "heard" and "herd" mean? They sound exactly the same. Why do you think they used the word "herd" instead of "heard"?
  - a) It was a mistake
  - b) "Herd" is correct
  - c) It's a play with words
  - d) Elephants have bad ears
  
- 6) Look at paragraph two ("If all elephants..."). What is one difference between African and Asian elephants?
  - a) African ones have larger ears
  - b) Only Asian elephants have tusks
  - c) Only African elephants have trunks
  - d) Nothing

Let's go to this section now:

**HABITAT AND DIET**

- 7) Find the third paragraph that starts with "Elephants eat all types..." About how many hours per day do elephants spend eating food?
- a) Five                      b) Ten                      c) Sixteen                      d) Twenty
- 8) Find the last paragraph ("Elephants at the San Diego Zoo..."). Elephants are herbivores. What do they eat at the zoo? (circle **many**)
- a) Hay                      b) Celery                      c) Cucumbers                      d) Lettuce

Find this section:

**FAMILY LIFE**

- 9) Look at the first paragraph "All elephants live in close..." What is the elephant matriarch like? (circle **many**)
- a) Male                      b) Female                      c) Old                      d) Experienced
- 10) Look at the second paragraph "Adult males don't usually..." What are the differences between how male elephants and female elephants live? (circle **many**)
- a) Males live on their own                      b) Males live with only other males                      c) Male elephants protect the baby elephants                      d) Male elephants guide baby elephants

Last section:

**CONSERVATION**

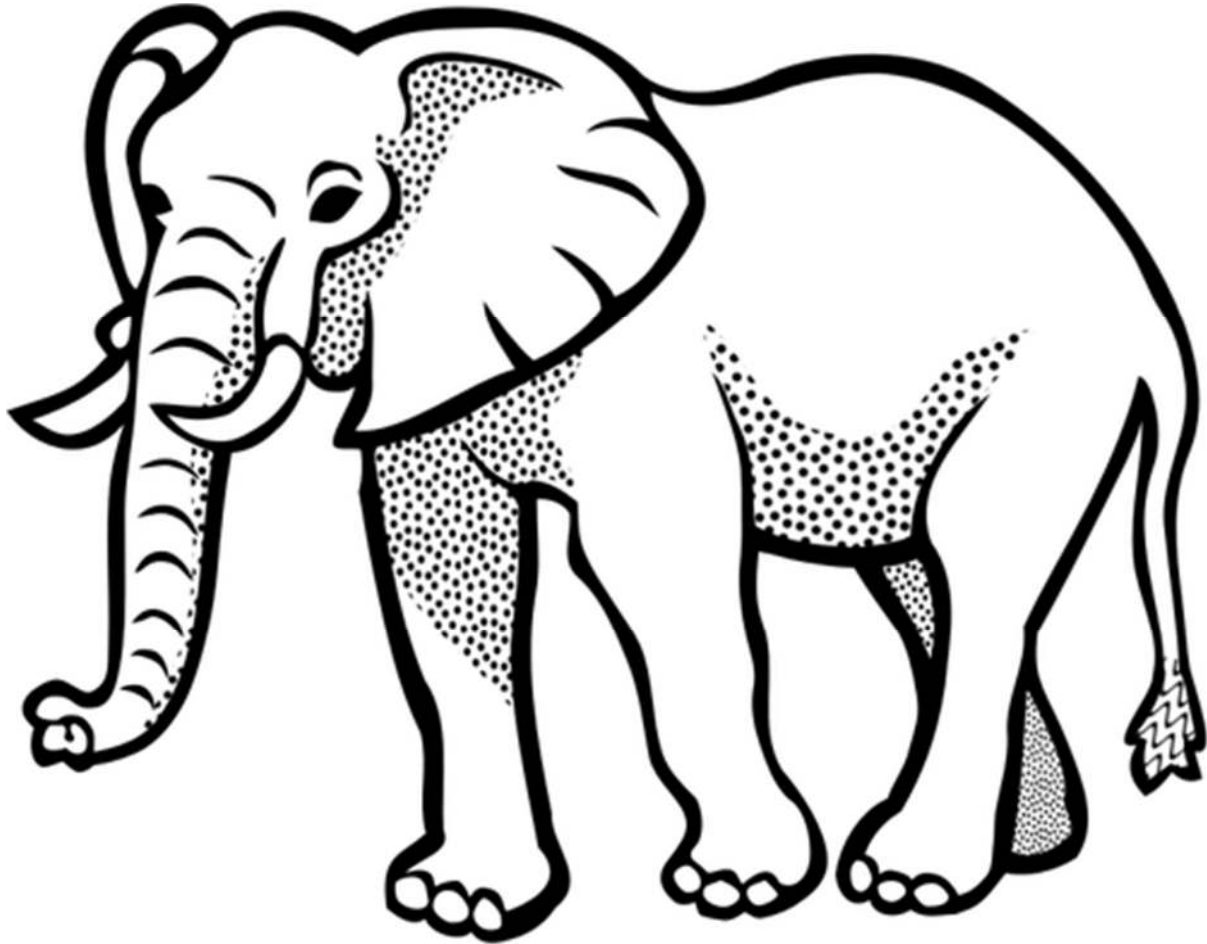
- 11) What are some threats to elephants? (circle **many**)
- a) They are hunted for their tusks                      b) They cannot swim                      c) Loss of habitat                      d) People poison their food
- 12) Visit the live elephant camera (at top of this worksheet). Write one or two sentences using evidence from the website and camera. Which type of elephants are they and how do you know?

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Color in your own elephant. Don't forget to give him or her a name and age. Pick the kind of elephant it is.



Your elephant's name \_\_\_\_\_

Your elephant's age \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of elephant is it? (hint: Asian or African? Look at its back?) \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key

- 1) C
- 2) C
- 3) B
- 4) A
- 5) C
- 6) A
- 7) C
- 8) A, B, C, D
- 9) B, D
- 10) A, B
- 11) A, C
- 12) These are African elephants. A few good observations: big ears shaped like the African continent, a dip in their backs, and the website explains that they are African elephants.

## Glossary

**Diurnal** (*Die-urn-el*) – To be active during the day.

**Herbivore** (*Her-bih-vor*) – An animal that eats only grasses, fruits, and plants.

**Herd** (*Her-d*) – A group of animals.

**Parade** (*Puh-ray-d*) – A herd of elephants.

**Matriarch** (*May-tree-ark*) - A female leader of a group, herd, or parade.

**Patriarch** (*Pay-tree-ark*) - A male leader of a group, herd, or parade.