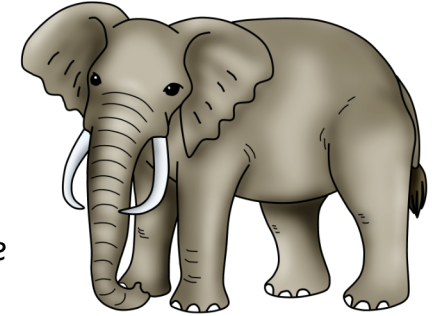


# Elephants

There are three species of elephant: African Savannah, African Forest and Asian elephants. African elephants are the world's largest land mammal.

Elephants are herbivores. They eat leaves, twigs, fruit and flowers. They use their tusks to prise bark off trees and dig up tree roots. Elephants use their trunks to suck up water to drink. They can also be used as snorkels when the elephants are swimming.



Elephants communicate in a variety of ways. They use touch, scent and body language. They also make loud trumpeting calls and other noises, and roar. Elephants can also communicate through vibrations in the ground which they feel in their bones.

Baby elephants are called calves. When they are born, they can't see very well or use their trunks but they are able to stand up within twenty minutes of being born.

## African Savannah Elephants

The average male African elephant is 3m tall and weighs 6 tonnes.

African elephants have bigger ears than Asian elephants and have two 'fingers' at the end of their trunk.

Both female and male African elephants can grow tusks.

90% of African elephants have been wiped out in the last century, mainly due to the ivory trade.

## Asian Elephants

The average male Asian elephant is 2.7m tall and weighs 3-5 tonnes.

Asian elephants have one 'finger' at the end of their trunks.

Only male Asian elephants grow tusks.

Asian elephants are endangered. They are in decline due to loss of habitat.