2ND GRADE READING · NONFICTION

# Elephants



Name _____ Date _____

Nonfiction | 132 words | Key details and new words

**I read it:** ☆ to myself ☆ to a grown-up ☆ to a friend

1 Elephants are the largest animals that live on land. A grown-up African elephant can weigh more than 6 tons, about as much as four cars.

2 An elephant's trunk is its nose and upper lip joined together. It is very strong and very useful. Elephants use their trunks to breathe, smell, pick up food and drink. To drink, an elephant sucks water into its trunk and then squirts it into its mouth.

3 Elephants also have tusks, which are long teeth. They use tusks to dig for water and to strip bark from trees.

4 Elephants live in family groups called **herds.** The oldest female, called the **matriarch,** leads the **herd.** She remembers where to find water, even in dry seasons. The whole **herd** helps to look after the babies, which are called **calves.**

**How did I do?** ☆ ☆ ☆

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# Elephants: questions

Name _____ Date _____

I can find answers in the text. Look back at the text to check.

## 1 Circle the best answer

**1. What is an elephant's trunk?**

a) a long tooth
b) its tail
c) its nose and upper lip

**2. What are tusks?**

a) strong feet
b) big ears
c) long teeth

**3. Who leads the herd?**

a) the youngest calf
b) the oldest female
c) the biggest male

## 2 True or false? Circle one.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Elephants are the largest animals on land. | True | False |
| Elephants drink straight through their trunks, like a straw. | True | False |
| Baby elephants are called calves. | True | False |

**How did I do?** ☆ ☆ ☆

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2ND GRADE READING · NONFICTION

# Elephants: words and writing

Name _____ Date _____

## 1 Match each word to its meaning. Draw a line.

| | |
|---|---|
| herd | a group of animals that live together |
| matriarch | baby elephants |
| calves | the female leader of a family |

## 2 Write your answer in a full sentence.

**Name three ways an elephant uses its trunk.**

## 3 Draw and label something you learned.

**How did I do?** ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

# Answer key: Elephants

## 1 Circle the best answer

1. c) its nose and upper lip
2. c) long teeth
3. b) the oldest female

## 2 True or false

True: Elephants are the largest animals on land.

False: Elephants drink straight through their trunks, like a straw.

True: Baby elephants are called calves.

## 3 Word meanings

herd: a group of animals that live together

matriarch: the female leader of a family

calves: baby elephants

## 4 Written answer (sample) 💡

Any three of: to breathe, to smell, to pick up food, to drink (it sucks up water and squirts it into its mouth).



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