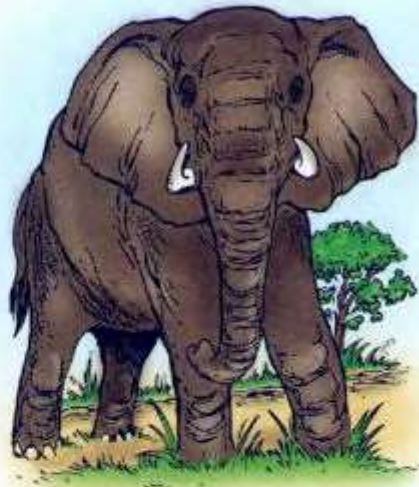


## African Elephant

The African elephant is the world's largest land animal. A male, or bull, can grow to 11 feet tall and 24 feet long. It can weigh as much as 14,000 pounds. Females, called cows, are smaller. Elephants have trunks that they use like hands. They can easily pick up small fruits or lift tree branches with their trunks. Elephants spend most of the day eating leaves, grass, small branches, bark, coconuts and berries. They also drink large amounts of water every day.



African elephants are found in the warm grasslands and forests of Africa. They live with other animals, such as lions, hyenas, giraffes and zebras. Lions and hyenas will attack baby elephants and sick elephants. Adult elephants are safe from most predators.

### Think and Learn

1. The female elephant is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Elephants use their \_\_\_\_\_ like hands.
3. What do elephants eat? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Adult elephants are safe from most \_\_\_\_\_.

Africa

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## Elephant Adaptations

Adaptations (ad ap TAY shuhnz) are special body parts or behaviors that animals have to survive in their environment. Some elephant adaptations help them live in hot places. They flap their large ears to cool off. They also do not have a thick layer of fat, like arctic animals have.



The most unusual elephant adaptation is its trunk. Elephants use their trunks to get food and water, cool off, breathe, touch things, smell, make sounds and “talk” to other elephants. Small “fingers” at the end of the trunk can pick up very small objects.

### Think and Learn

1. Label the elephant adaptations in the picture.

2. How do elephants use their trunks? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Elephant Facts

Fill in the blanks on this page to make a fact sheet on African elephants.

### What Elephants Look Like

1. Height \_\_\_\_\_
2. Length \_\_\_\_\_
3. Weight of an adult \_\_\_\_\_
4. What does an elephant look like? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

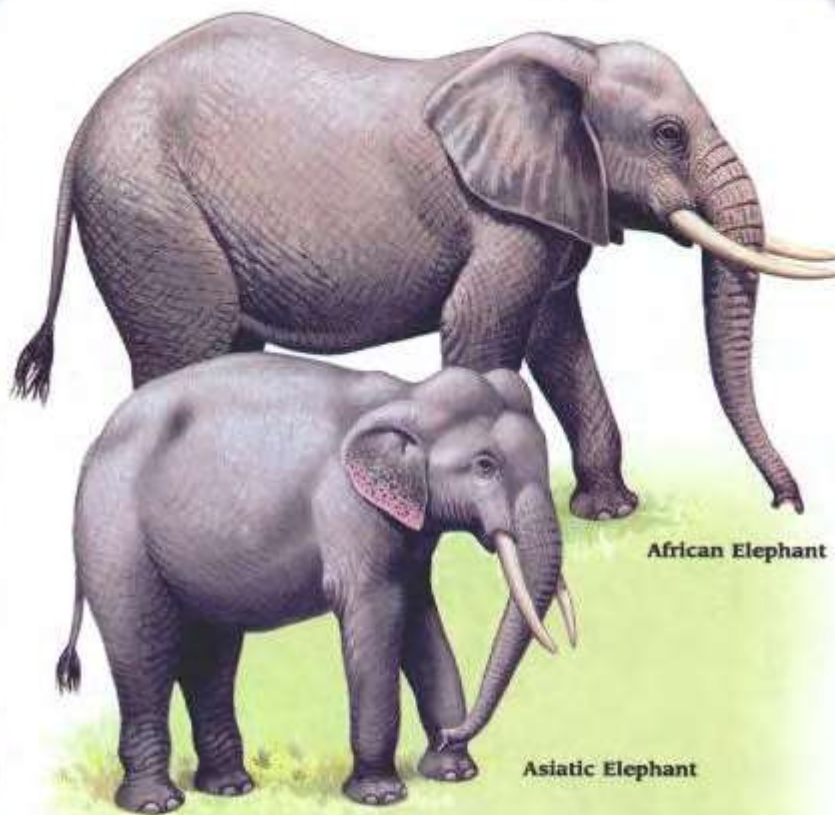
### Where Elephants Live

1. Where do elephants live? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What other animals are found where elephants live? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Eating Habits

1. What do elephants eat? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What eats elephants? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





African Elephant

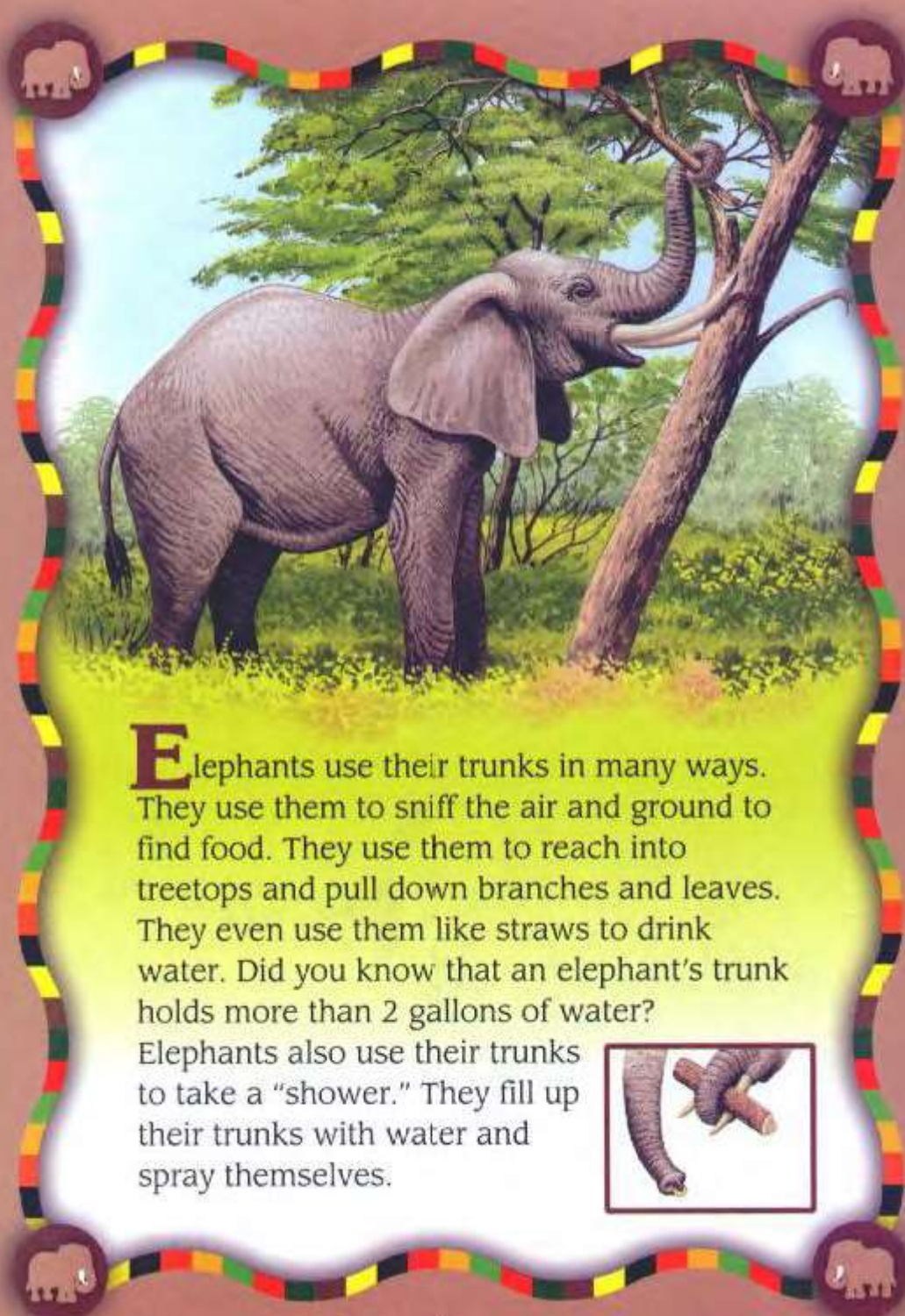
Asiatic Elephant

**E**lephants are the largest animals on land. They are the only animals with long flexible trunks. There are two kinds of elephants. The African elephant lives in Africa. The Asiatic, or Indian, elephant lives in India. It is easy to tell the two elephants apart. African elephants are bigger. Their larger ears cover their shoulders. Asiatic elephants have much smaller ears.

**A**lmost everything about an elephant's body is huge. An elephant's trunk can be 5 feet long. Elephant tusks are actually upper front teeth that never stop growing. The tusks can grow to 8 feet long. An elephant's heart is five times bigger than a human heart. Its large stumplike legs are strong enough to support the elephant's weight—about the weight of 100 people.







**E**lephants use their trunks in many ways. They use them to sniff the air and ground to find food. They use them to reach into treetops and pull down branches and leaves. They even use them like straws to drink water. Did you know that an elephant's trunk holds more than 2 gallons of water?

Elephants also use their trunks to take a "shower." They fill up their trunks with water and spray themselves.



**E**lephants give birth to one baby at a time. When the baby is born, the other females in the herd sniff it and touch it gently. Later, they help look after the baby as it grows. A baby elephant stands about 3 feet at birth and weighs about 200 pounds. The baby grows quickly, gaining 30 pounds a month. Baby elephants stay with their mothers until they are 12 to 14 years old.

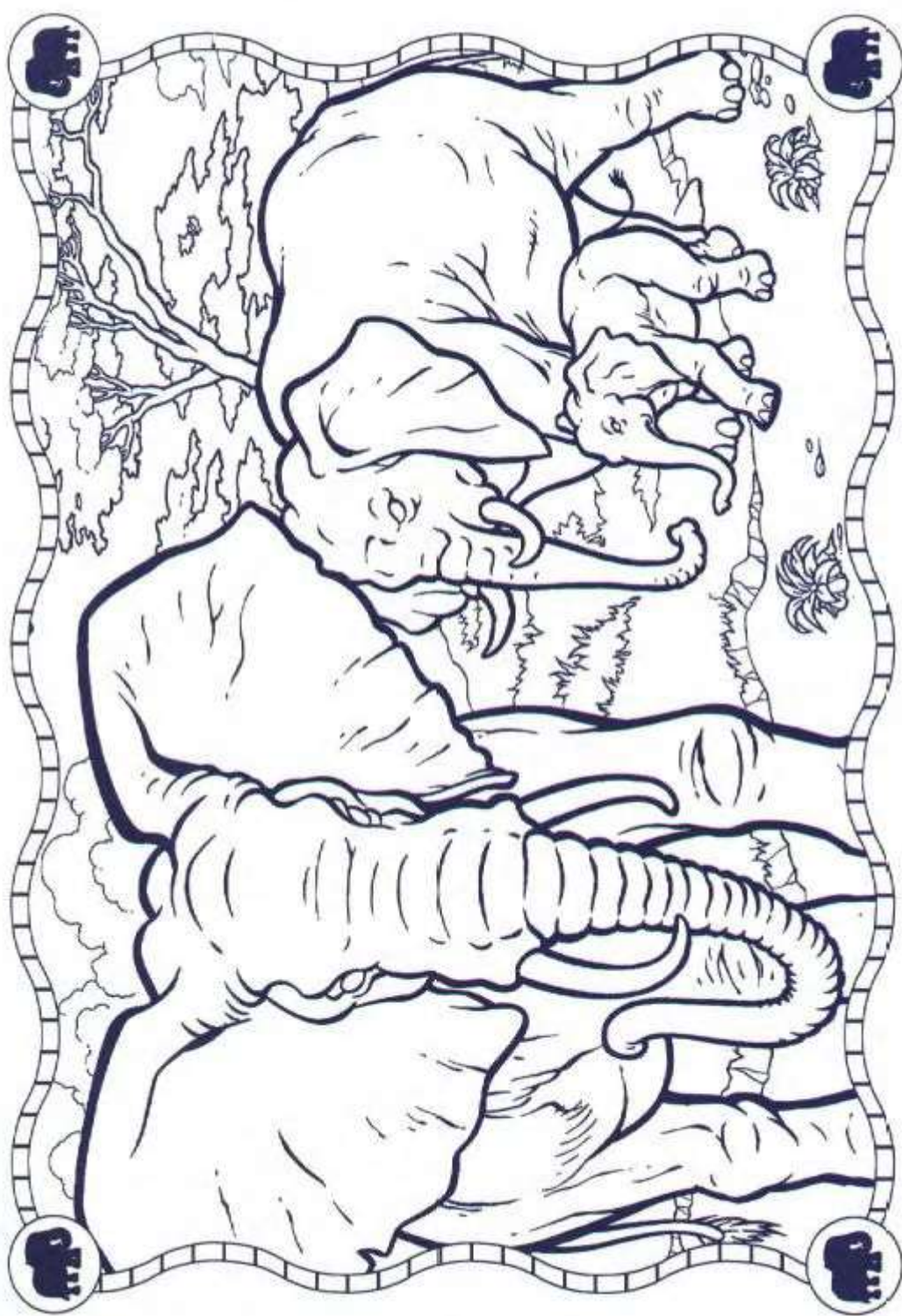




**B**aby elephants love to play. They chase and push one another. They grab each other's tail with their trunks. They also climb on top of each other and have "play fights." As the young elephants play, an older sister or aunt usually watches them. Playing helps young elephants learn the rules of the herd. It also teaches them how to get along with other elephants.







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### Think and Learn

1. The female elephant is called a \_\_\_\_\_
2. Elephants use their \_\_\_\_\_ trunk
3. What do elephants eat? leaves  
branches, bark, coconuts