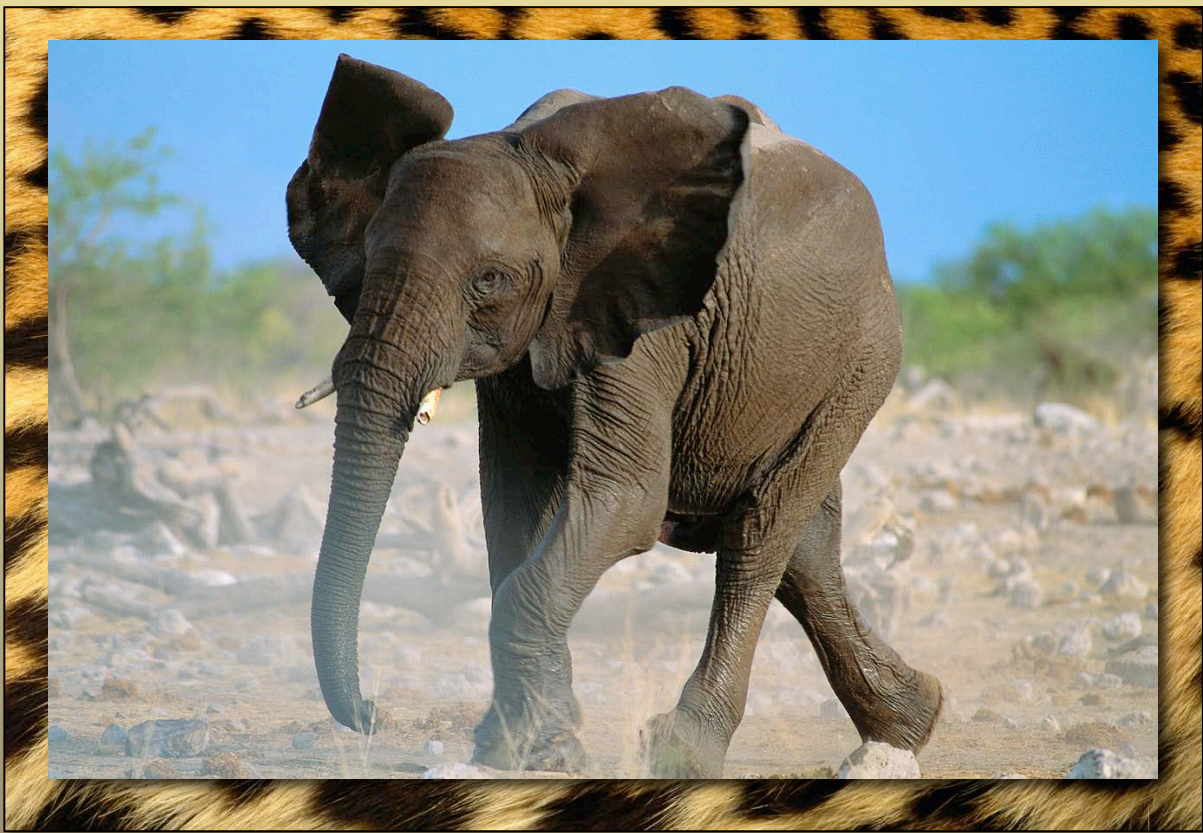


THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT



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THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT:



1. Endangered Species:

- The African Elephant is one of the most endangered animals in Africa.
- The main reason for the threat is poaching for the ivory tusks.
- Baby elephants sometimes die because of drought.
- Baby elephants are sometimes prey to lions & crocodiles.
- Nearly 70 000 elephants are killed each year.
- In 1980 there were about 1 million elephants in Africa.
- The African elephant population is now less than 470 000.
- Adult elephants' only enemy is man.

2. Elephant Facts:

- There are 2 types of elephant in Africa, the Forest elephant & the Bush elephant.
- The African elephant is the largest living land animal.
- The elephant is a mammal.
- They consume 136-225 kilograms of food a day.
- Elephants are herbivores.
- They spend about 16 hours per day collecting food.
- Their food consists of fruit, grass & leaves.
- Elephants use their trunks for drinking, smelling, grabbing and hugging.
- The elephant's trunk is about 2 meters long.
- The trunk consists of a nose and upper lip.
- The elephant can suck up to 7,5 liters of water into its trunk.
- The elephant drinks by sucking up water into the trunk, curling the trunk into its mouth and blowing the water out.
- They use their trunks to stay cool by sprinkling water over their bodies.
- Elephants can swim! They use their trunks as snorkels when going deep under water.
- The trunk has many muscles and can pick a single leaf from a tree.
- The trunk has no bones, only muscles.
- They use their tusks to dig up roots from the ground.
- The ears have blood vessels that regulate temperature.
- African elephants are found on the African continent south of the Sahara desert.
- Elephant cows are pregnant for 22 months.
- Female elephant travel in groups, while the males travel alone or in groups of their own.
- Elephants can live to 70 years.
- They weigh 6 tons and can be as large as 4 meters high at the shoulders.

References:

www.africapoint.net

www.kids.nationalgeographic.com

