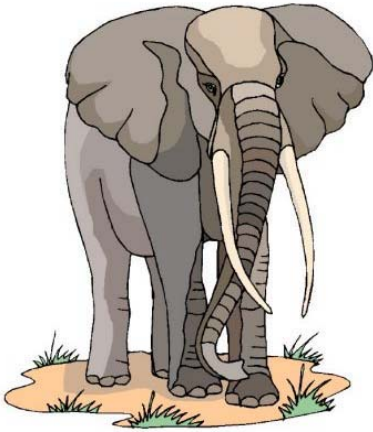


Name: _____



African Elephants

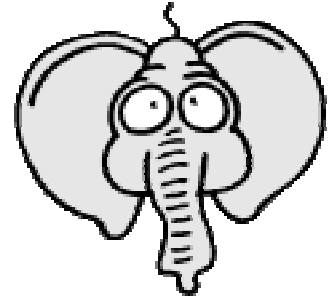
African elephants are the largest mammals that live on land. They grow all of their lives. Male African elephants can get to be thirteen feet tall if measured from the ground to the top of their shoulder. They can weigh up to 14,000 pounds.

African elephants have ears that can be five feet long and are shaped like the continent of Africa. Elephants can flap their ears. The big ears help keep the elephants cool.

Elephants eat all day long. They eat vegetables, such as grass, leaves, and other plants. They also eat fruit, like bananas. Elephants use their trunks to grab food and put it in their mouth. They can also suck water into their trunks and squirt the water into their mouths. Elephants sometimes drink up to forty gallons of water a day! Elephants use their trunks to pick up things and to hold things. They can pick up something as small as a marble, or as big as a tree. They also breathe through their trunks.

Elephants have two tusks, which are made of ivory. The tusks grow to the right and the left sides of their trunks. Elephants can use their tusks to fight and to dig. People used to hunt elephants so that they could get their tusks. Ivory was used to make beautiful jewelry and statues. It is against the law to hunt elephants now, because hunting them made them endangered animals.

Name: _____



African Elephants Comprehension Sheet

Use the reading sheet to answer the questions about elephants.

1. Write **three facts** that tell how big African elephants are:

2. Write **three facts** that tell about an African elephant's ears:

3. Write **four things** that an African elephant **eats**:

4. How many gallons of water can an elephant drink in a day?

5. What are elephant tusks made of?

6. Why did people hunt elephants?

7. Why is it against the law to hunt elephants today?
