

Reading - Comprehension Test

Elephants

Elephants have lived on our planet for five to seven million years. Three species of elephant are living today: the African bush elephant, the African forest elephant and the Asian elephant. African elephants are the largest of all land animals. Trunks help elephants a lot: the animals pick up fruit, drink water, breathe and smell with their trunks. Elephants' ears are really big! The animals use their ears as fans when they get too hot. An elephant's tusks are in fact two very big teeth, which grow together with the elephant. The longest tusks recorded were 3.5 meters long and the heaviest - 100 kg. Elephants eat grass, leaves, twigs, bark and fruit. They are able to swim for long distances. Elephants typically live for 50 to 70 years, but the oldest recorded elephant lived for 82 years.

Elephants live in family groups and sometimes get together in a large herd. The leader is always the oldest female. If she sees or feels any danger, she runs away and the others do the same. Mothers show their children where to find food and where to drink, what to be afraid of.

Elephants are wonderful animals but they are endangered animals too. So we must do everything we can to save them.

Words:

a trunk – хобот

tusks - бивни

a female – особь женского пола

a herd - стадо

to pick up - собирать

a fan – веер

to breathe – дышать

recorded – зарегистрированный

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I. Match the words of the two columns A and B in order to make word combinations.

A	B
1. an African	a) animal
2. a land	b) elephant
3. family	c) fruit
4. to pick up	d) tusks
5. the longest	e) groups

II. Complete the sentences according to the text.

1. Elephants have lived on our planet for five to seven (hundred years, thousand years, million years).
2. An elephant's tusks are in fact two very big (ears, teeth, trunks).
3. They are able to swim for (long distances, not very long distances).
4. The longest tusks recorded were 3.5 (centimeters, kiloliters, meters).
5. The leader is always (the tallest female, the oldest female).

III. Write down whether the following statements are true or false.

1. Animals with trunks live only in Africa.
2. African elephants are the largest land animals on our planet.
3. The animals use their ears as fans when they get too hot.
4. Elephants' tusks are good for picking up fruit.
5. Elephants are endangered animals.

IV. Answer the following questions.

1. How many species of elephant are living today?
2. Who is the leader of an elephant's herd?
3. How do elephants use their ears and trunk?
4. What is the average length of an elephant's life?
5. Have you ever seen an elephant in the Zoo?