

10 INTERESTING FACTS ON ELEPHANTS

- There are two types of elephant, the Asian elephant and the African elephant (although sometimes the African Elephant is split into two species, the African Forest Elephant and the African Bush Elephant).
- Elephants are the largest land-living mammal in the world.
- Both the female and male African elephants have tusks but only the male Asian elephants have tusks. They use their tusks for digging and finding food.
- Female elephants are called cows. They start to have calves anywhere from 7-14 years old and they are pregnant for 22 months.
- An elephant can use its tusks to dig for ground water. An adult elephant needs to drink around 210 litres of water a day.
- Elephants have no natural predators. However, lions will sometimes prey on young or weak elephants in the wild. The main risk to elephants is from humans through poaching and changes to their habitat.
- An elephant's trunk can grow to be about 2.1 metres long and can weigh up to 140 kg. Some scientists believe that an elephant's trunk is made up of 100,000 muscles, but no bones.
- Female elephants spend their entire lives living in large groups called herds. Male elephants leave their herds at about 13 years old and live fairly solitary lives from this point.
- Elephants are herbivores and can spend up to 16 hours a day collecting leaves, twigs, bamboo and roots.
- Elephants can swim – they use their trunk to breathe like a snorkel in deep water.