

3-D ZOO ANIMALS



Supplies:

- Animal Pieces
- Crayons or Markers
- Cardboard
- Construction Paper

Instructions:

- 1) Color and put together your animals.
- 2) Use the cardboard and other craft supplies to create a zoo habitat for each animal.

AFRICAN ELEPHANT FACTS

COMMON NAME: African elephants

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Loxodonta africana*

TYPE: Mammals

DIET: Herbivore

GROUP NAME: Herd

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD: Up to 70 years

SIZE: Height at the shoulder, 8.2 to 13 feet

WEIGHT: 2.5 to seven tons

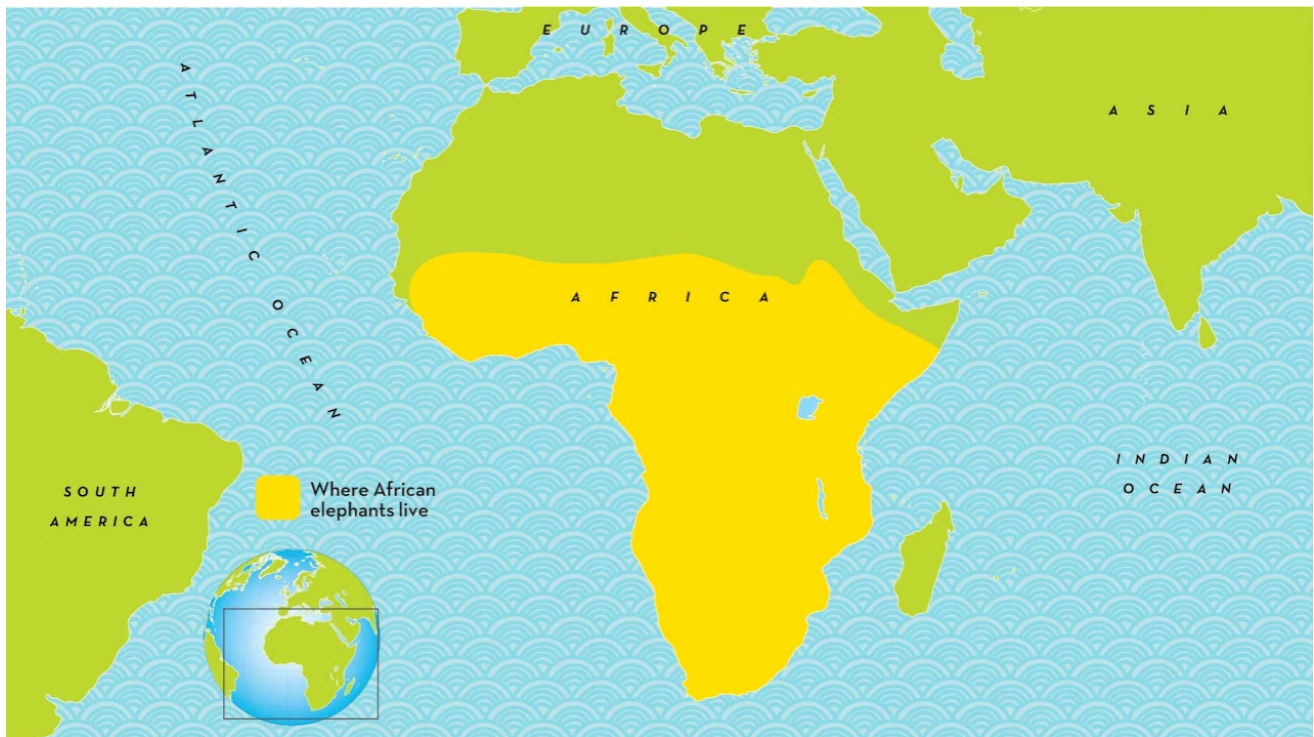


An adult African elephant's trunk is about seven feet (two meters) long! It's actually an elongated nose and upper lip. Like most noses, trunks are for smelling.

When an elephant drinks, it sucks as much as 2 gallons (7.5 liters) of water into its trunk at a time. Then it curls its trunk under, sticks the tip of its trunk into its mouth, and blows. Out comes the water, right down the elephant's throat.

Since African elephants live where the sun is usually blazing hot, they use their trunks to help them keep cool. First they squirt a trunkful of cool water over their bodies. Then they often follow that with a sprinkling of dust to create a protective layer of dirt on their skin. Elephants pick up and spray dust the same way they do water—with their trunks.

Elephants also use their trunks as snorkels when they wade in deep water. An elephant's trunk is controlled by many muscles. Two fingerlike parts on the tip of the trunk allow the elephant to perform delicate maneuvers such as picking a berry from the ground or plucking a single leaf off a tree. Elephants can also use its trunk to grasp an entire tree branch and pull it down to its mouth and to yank up clumps of grasses and shove the greenery into their mouths.



When an elephant gets a whiff of something interesting, it sniffs the air with its trunk raised up like a submarine periscope. If threatened, an elephant will also use its trunk to make loud trumpeting noises as a warning.

Elephants are social creatures. They sometimes hug by wrapping their trunks together in displays of greeting and affection. Elephants also use their trunks to help lift or nudge an elephant calf over an obstacle, to rescue a fellow elephant stuck in mud, or to gently raise a newborn elephant to its feet. And just as a human baby sucks its thumb, an elephant calf often sucks its trunk for comfort. One elephant can eat 300 pounds (136 kilograms) of food in one day.

People hunt elephants mainly for their ivory tusks. Adult females and young travel in herds, while adult males generally travel alone or in groups of their own.

**For more information on elephants check out the following databases:
National Geographic Kids and Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia.**

Information taken from National Geographic Kids website.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/african-elephant>

LION FACTS

COMMON NAME: African lions

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Panthera leo*

TYPE: Mammals

DIET: Carnivore

GROUP NAME: Pride

SIZE: Head and body, 4.5 to 6.5 feet; tail, 26.25 to 39.5 inches

WEIGHT: 265 to 420 pounds

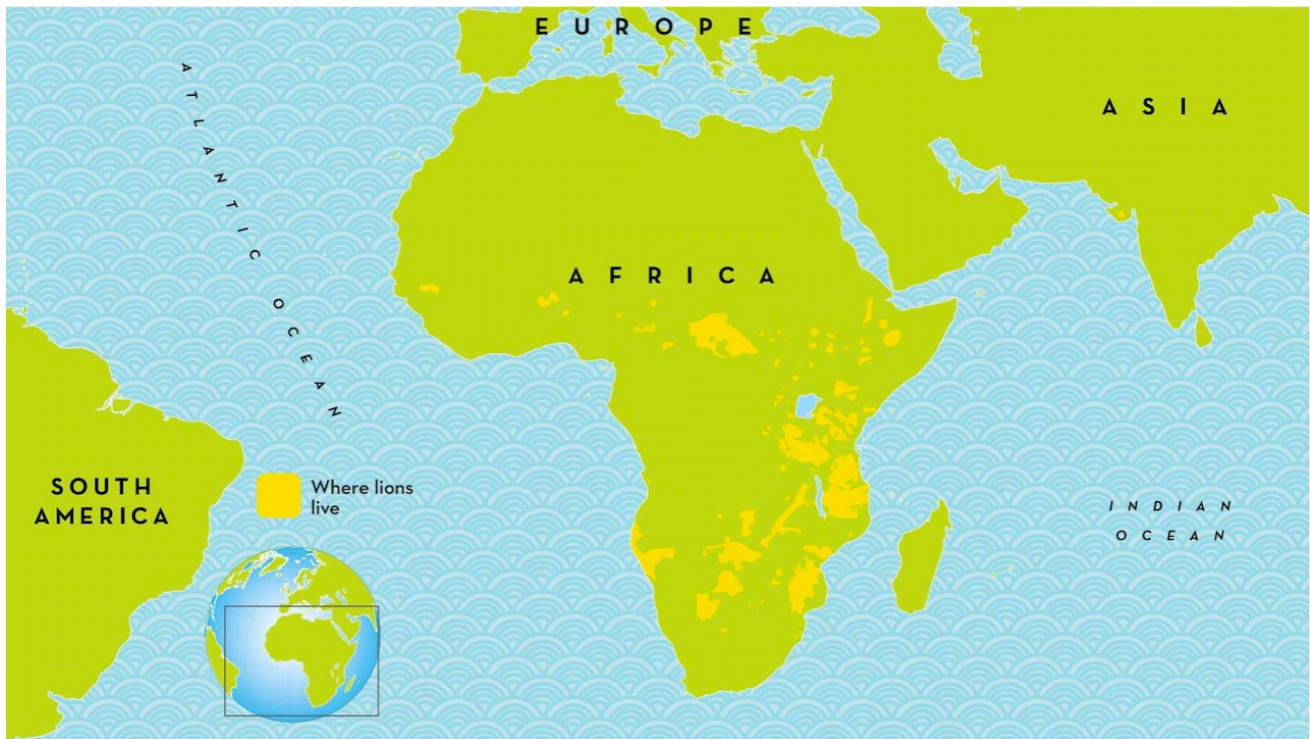


For all of their roaring, growling, and ferociousness, lions are family animals and truly social in their own communities. They usually live in groups of 15 or more animals called prides.

Lion prides can be as small as 3 or as big as 40 animals. In a pride, lions hunt prey, raise cubs, and defend their territory together. In prides the females do most of the hunting and cub rearing. Usually all the lionesses in the pride are related—mothers, daughters, grandmothers, and sisters.

Many of the females in the pride give birth at about the same time. A cub may nurse from other females as well as its mother. Each pride generally will have no more than two adult males.

While the females usually live with the pride for life, the males often stay for only two to four years. After that they go off on their own or are evicted by other males who take over the pride. When a new male becomes part of the pride it is not unusual for him to kill all the cubs, ensuring that all future cubs will have his genes. The main job of males in the pride is defending the pride's territory. A male's loud roar, usually heard after sunset, can carry for as far as five miles (eight kilometers). The roar warns off intruders and helps round up stray members of the pride.



Hunting generally is done in the dark by the lionesses. They often hunt in groups of two or three, using teamwork to stalk, surround, and kill their prey. Lionesses aren't the most successful of hunters, because they usually score only one kill out of several tries. After the kill the males usually eat first, lionesses next—and the cubs get what's left. Males and females fiercely defend against any outside lions that attempt to join their pride.

Because of their size, strength, and predatory skills, lions are considered one of the “big cats.” Tigers, cheetahs, leopards, jaguars, and cougars are also part of this grouping.

For more information on lions check out the following databases: National Geographic Kids and Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia.

Information taken from National Geographic Kids website.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/lion>

GIRAFFE FACTS

COMMON NAME: Giraffe

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Giraffa camelopardalis*

TYPE: Mammals

DIET: Herbivore

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD: 25 years

SIZE: 14 to 19 feet

WEIGHT: 1,750 to 2,800 pounds



Giraffes grow about 4 feet (1.2 meters) in their first year of life. A newborn giraffe is about 6 feet (1.9 meters) tall at birth and weighs about 150 pounds (68 kilograms).

Many young giraffes, called calves, die from lion attacks during their first year of life. Once a giraffe reaches adulthood its height is often enough to protect it from lions. Adult giraffes, however, must still be careful of lions when they are bending down to drink water or rest. Usually giraffes will drink or rest in shifts so that at least one giraffe is always on the lookout for approaching predators.

The giraffes' height and excellent vision give them a wide view of the grasslands where they live, making it easy to spot predators from a distance. Some scientists believe that other animals—such as zebras, antelope, and wildebeests—often congregate near giraffes to take advantage of their ability to see danger from a distance. The giraffe could be considered the early warning system of the African grasslands.



**For more information on giraffes check out the following databases:
National Geographic Kids and Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia.**

Information taken from National Geographic Kids website.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/giraffe>

ZEBRA FACTS

COMMON NAME: Plains Zebra

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Equus quagga*

TYPE: Mammals

DIET: Herbivore

GROUP NAME: Herd

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD: 25 years

SIZE: Height at the shoulder: 3.5 to 5 feet

WEIGHT: 440 to 990 pounds



Each zebra has its own unique pattern of distinctive stripes, just as humans have their own unique pattern of fingerprints.

Zebras stick together in herds. Within a herd, zebras tend to stay together in smaller family groups. Families are generally made up of a male, several females, and their young.

As a zebra grazes, it uses its sharper front teeth to bite the grass, and then uses its duller back teeth to crush and grind. A zebra's teeth keep growing for its entire life, because constant grazing and chewing wears them down.

Zebras are constantly on the move to find fresh grass and water. Sometimes they gather in huge herds of thousands as they migrate to better feeding grounds. They often travel in mixed herds with other grazers and browsers, such as wildebeest.



Zebras groom one another. If you see two zebras standing close to each other and it looks like they're biting each other, don't worry. They're pulling loose hairs off each other as they groom. Grooming also feels good to a zebra—it's like having an itch scratched.

**For more information on zebras check out the following databases:
National Geographic Kids and Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia.**

Information taken from National Geographic Kids website.
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/zebra>

BLACK RHINO FACTS

COMMON NAME: Black Rhinoceros

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Diceros bicornis*

TYPE: Mammals

DIET: Herbivore

SIZE: Height at shoulder: 4.5 to 6 feet

WEIGHT: 1,760 to 3,080 pounds



Black rhinoceroses have a sort of attack-first-and-ask-questions-later attitude. When a rhino catches the scent of a human or anything else unfamiliar, it is likely to charge. Rhinos can't see well, so they sometimes charge objects like trees and rocks, mistaking them as threats. But rhinos have keen senses of smell and hearing.

Rhinos sometimes fight with each other. Black rhinos use the bigger of the two horns on their noses as weapons in a fight.

Their horns, made of a substance similar to that of human fingernails, sometimes break off, but they regenerate, or grow back. Female rhinos also use their horns to protect their babies from predators such as lions, crocodiles, and hyenas.

In spite of their fierce reputation, black rhinos do have a softer side. The females are very attentive mothers. They look after their young for years, protecting them from enemies and teaching them how to survive independently. Young rhinos usually stay with their mothers until a sibling is born. By then they're generally over two years old, almost adult size, and ready to live on their own.



Humans are the only real threat to adult black rhinos. In several Asian cultures, people believe that a rhino horn provides powerful medicine for a variety of ailments. Other people, who live mainly in northern Africa, use rhino horns to make the handles for special daggers. Since rhino horns fetch high prices, many poachers are willing to break the law and kill these endangered animals.

There are five different species of rhinoceros: black, white, Javan, great Indian, and Sumatran.

**For more information on black rhinos check out the following databases:
National Geographic Kids and Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia.**

Information taken from National Geographic Kids website.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/black-rhino>