

# All About Elephants

The African bush elephant is the largest land mammal. They can grow up to three metres tall and they can weigh around the same as three large cars!

## Elephants Never Forget

Elephants have huge brains and they are very smart. They have feelings and they love their family. They help each other and they know when someone in their family is missing. They can even remember humans and elephants that they met many years ago.

## Different Kinds of Elephants

There are three different **species** of elephant:

- the African bush elephant;
- the African forest elephant;
- the Asian elephant.

The word **species** means a group of living things that are very similar.

## Did You Know...?

A group of elephants is called a herd.

The oldest female elephant is the boss of the herd and she leads the way.



### Did You Know...?

Elephants can get sunburnt because they do not have any fur to keep their skin safe.

They have a bath in the mud and throw dirt on themselves to help to protect their skin



### Telling Them Apart

There are three simple ways to tell whether the elephant you are looking at is an African elephant or an Asian elephant. You can look at their ears, the shape of their head and their tusks.



an African elephant



an Asian elephant



African elephants have large ears that look like the shape of Africa. Asian elephants have smaller, rounder ears.

African elephants have rounded heads. An Asian elephant's head looks like there are two hills on the top.

Both male and female African elephants can grow tusks. Only male Asian elephants can grow tusks.

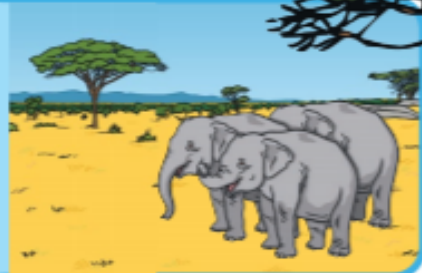
You may also look at the size of the elephant. African elephants are often bigger and heavier than Asian elephants.

### Did You Know...?

Adult male elephants are called bulls.

Adult female elephants are called cows.

A baby elephant is called a calf.



# Questions

1. Which of these is not a species of elephant? Tick one.

- an African elephant  
 the American elephant  
 the Asian elephant

2. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

A group of elephants...

are called bulls.

Adult male elephants...

is called a calf.

A baby elephant...

is called a herd.

3. Look at the part of the text called **Elephants Never Forget**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'clever'.

---

4. Who leads a herd?

---

5. Fill in the missing word.

\_\_\_\_\_ elephants have smaller, rounder ears.

6. Explain why elephants can get sunburnt.

---

---

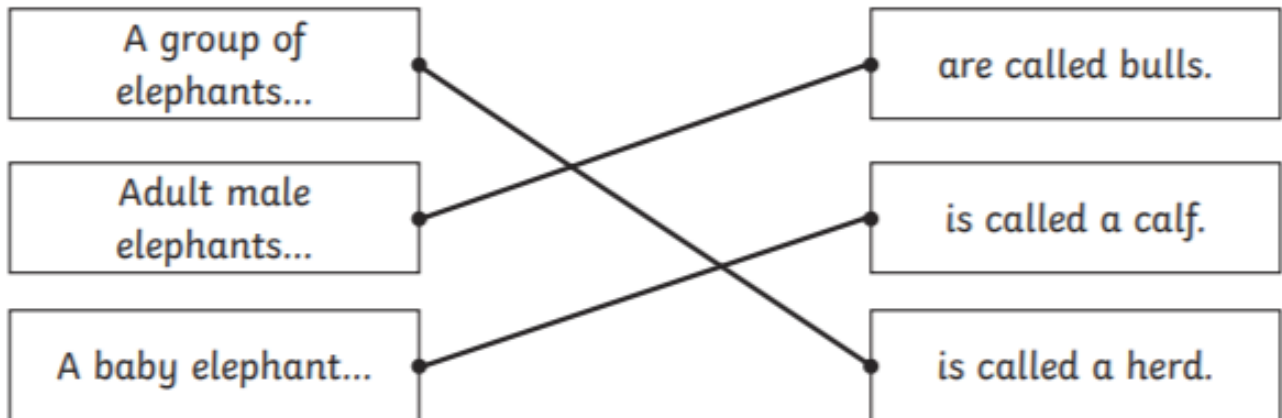
---

# Answers

1. Which of these is not a species of elephant? Tick one.

- an African elephant  
 **the American elephant**  
 the Asian elephant

2. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.



3. Look at the part of the text called **Elephants Never Forget**  
Find and copy one word which means the same as 'clever'.

**smart**

4. Who leads a herd?

**The oldest female elephant is the boss of the herd and she leads the way.**

5. Fill in the missing word.

**Asian** elephants have smaller, rounder ears.

6. Explain why elephants can get sunburnt.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Elephants can get sunburnt because they do not have any fur to stop their skin from getting burnt.**