

MEET THE ELEPHANT

ABOUT ME

I'm an African elephant with very big ears. I am the national animal of Mozambique. I am the world's largest land mammal and I can weigh up to **7000kg**.

Did you know my tusks grow throughout my life? We use our tusks for digging, foraging and fighting. Sometimes we rest our heavy trunks on our tusks.

My trunk can hold up to 12 litres of water and can grow up to 2m long.

How long is your nose?

DID YOU KNOW?

We are the strongest land mammal and can carry **9000kg** which is about the same as 130 adult humans.

DID YOU KNOW?

We can't jump.

Animals that jump need really flexible ankles and really strong Achilles tendons and calf muscles. We have really weak lower leg muscles and our ankles are not very flexible.

How high can you jump?

TOP THREATS

Our biggest threat is poaching; we are killed for our tusks, which are nothing more than overgrown teeth.

We sometimes come into conflict with humans as we all share the same resources like space, food and water.

WHY WE ARE IMPORTANT

We are known as nature's gardeners – we play a vital role in maintaining healthy landscapes. We eat plants and fruits, walk for miles and spread the seeds in fertile dung. In this way, new plants can grow in different areas. Did you know that 90 different tree species rely on us to help them grow?

We dig holes and expose underground springs which allows other smaller animals and sometimes humans to access water in drier times.

MY NAMES

My name, 'elephant', comes from the Greek word **'ELEPHAS'** which means 'ivory'. My Portuguese name is **elefante** if we are boys and **elefanta** if we are girls.

How many names do you have?

WHAT WE LIKE TO EAT

We are **HERBIVORES**. We eat about **100-300kg** of grasses, leaves, bark, twigs and other vegetation every day. We drink up to **190 litres** of water a day.

Do you like to eat your greens?

MY FAMILY

We live in families just like humans, and are very social. The females of our herds help raise the calves together.

All of us in a herd defer to our leader, the oldest and wisest female in the group, called the matriarch.

