Elephants' Memories

Many people know that elephants are the largest land animals in the world, but fewer people realise just how intelligent they are. The phrase "an elephant never forgets" may be closer to the truth than we think.

Scientists have discovered that elephants have excellent memories that help them survive in the wild. In dry seasons, older elephants can remember the locations of water sources from many years ago and lead their herds there. This ability can save hundreds of animals from dying of thirst.

Elephants also recognise individual humans and can remember whether a person was friendly or dangerous to them, even after several years. In one study, elephants reacted with stress and defensive behaviour when they saw clothing worn by people from a group that had hunted them in the past. At the same time, they remained calm when they saw clothing from a harmless group.

Another surprising fact is that elephants show emotions similar to humans. They mourn their dead and sometimes even touch the bones of deceased herd members, as if paying respects. This combination of memory, recognition, and emotion makes them one of the most remarkable animals on Earth.

21 Elephants use their memories mainly to

22 In the study with clothing, elephants

23 The text suggests that elephants' emotions

24 Which statement is TRUE according to the text?

LIVEWORKSHEETS