



Elephants

Elephants are the largest living land mammals. The largest elephant recorded weighed around 13.5 tons and stood around 4 meters tall. Their skin color is grey, and their body hair is sparse and coarse.

At birth, an elephant calf may weigh as much as 100 kg. The baby elephant develops for 20 to 22 months inside its mother. No other land animal takes this long to develop before being born. All elephants have trunk. Trunk is a very long nose, made from the upper lip. An elephant uses its trunk to grab objects such as food. Though the rest of an elephant's hide is strong and thick, its trunk is very soft and sensitive.

The trunk is also used when it trumpets. The elephant usually stands still, raises its trunk, and blows. This is a signal to other elephants and wildlife.

Elephant tusks are enlarged incisor teeth made of ivory. In the African elephant both the male and the female possess tusks, whereas in the Asian elephant it is mainly the male that has tusks. When present in the female, tusks are small, thin, and often of a uniform thickness. Tusk size and shape are inherited. Tusks are used for defense, offense, digging, lifting objects, gathering food, and stripping bark to eat from trees. They also protect the sensitive trunk, which is tucked between them when the elephant charges.



Physical appearances	characteristics