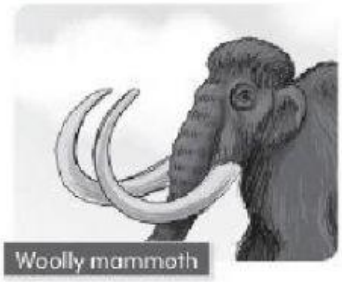
**A** **Read the article. Why do elephants need our help?**

**B** **Read the article again. When you read, think about the author's purpose. What does she want you to learn?**

# Elephants in Danger

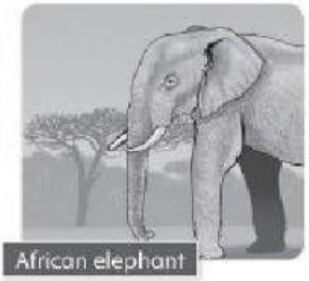

Woolly mammoth

Have you ever seen a **woolly mammoth**? Maybe you have seen one in a book or movie, but you've never seen a real one. Why? Because they became extinct about 4,000 years ago. However, you can see its modern-day relative, the elephant.

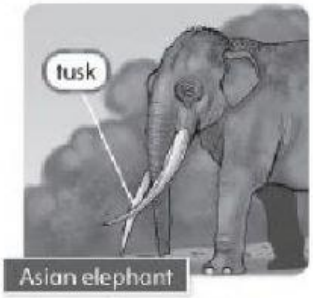
Elephants are the largest living animals on land. They can weigh about 7,000 kg and be 4 meters high. There are two **species** of elephants—Asian elephants and African elephants. The two species look a little different. An African elephant's ear is big and floppy. It looks like a map of Africa! An Asian elephant's ear is smaller. The shape looks like a map of India!

All elephants eat plants. They eat grasses, leaves, fruit, branches, and tree bark. An elephant can eat about 200 kg of food in a day!

Elephants are very intelligent and sensitive animals. They live in family groups. Different families of elephants meet to socialize. Elephants communicate over long distances with very low sounds. People can't hear them!


African elephant

The sad news about elephants is that they are **endangered**, or in danger of becoming extinct. The numbers of elephants has been decreasing for many years. Elephants still live in some parts of Africa and Asia, but they have disappeared from West Asia, Java, and most of China.



Asian elephant

Why are elephants disappearing? One reason is that people have been **exploiting** elephants for their ivory tusks. Another reason is that people have been destroying the elephants' **habitat** to use the land.

Many environmental groups have been working to stop people from killing elephants for ivory and to stop people from selling and buying ivory. People have built **sanctuaries**, or protected areas, for elephants to live in safely. We have to protect elephants if we want them to survive. We don't want them to become **extinct** like the woolly mammoths.

**Think**
What does the author want you to learn?



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## Comprehension

**A** **Circle the sentences that tell why the author wrote the story.**

1. The author thinks it is sad that elephants may become extinct.
2. The author thinks it is important to kill elephants for ivory.
3. The author thinks it is important to protect endangered animals.
4. The author wants you to learn about elephants so that you will care about them.
5. The author thinks it is okay for elephants to become extinct.

**B** **Choose the correct answer.**

1. Why do people kill elephants?
   - **a** Elephants eat too many plants.
   - **b** People want to protect the land.
   - **c** People want to get ivory tusks.
   - **d** Elephants communicate with low sounds.

2. What is one thing that environmental groups do NOT do?
   - **a** They try to protect elephants.
   - **b** They try to change elephant habitats.
   - **c** They try to stop people from selling ivory.
   - **d** They try to stop people from buying ivory.

**C** **Why is it important to protect elephants in Asia and Africa?**

_____

_____

_____

**D** **Words in Context** **Fill in the blanks.**

| existed | eventually | mammals | suffered | atmosphere | rare |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

1. Many reptiles, birds, and _____ have become extinct.
2. Woolly mammoths _____ more than 4,000 years ago, but now they're extinct.
3. Changes in the _____ can cause changes in climate and habitats.
4. Elephants have _____ from people exploiting them for their tusks.
5. Soon it may be _____ to see any elephants. _____ they may become extinct.



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