

Name:.....

Reading Comprehension

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!

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.



African elephant



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.

Now complete the exercises in the next pages!

Choose the sentences that tell why the author wrote the story:

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

Choose the correct answer: Why do people kill elephants?

Elephants eat too many plants.	
People want to protect the land.	
People want to get ivory tusks.	
Elephants communicate with low sounds.	

What is one thing that environmental groups do NOT do?

They try to protect elephants.	
They try to change elephant habitats.	
They try to stop people from selling ivory.	
They try to stop people from buying ivory.	

Words in context. Write the letter of the corresponding word for each blank

1. existed	a)	
2. eventually	b)	
3. mammals	c)	
4. suffered	d)	
5. atmosphere	e)	
6. rare	f)	

Many reptiles, birds, and ____ (a) ____ have become extinct.
 Woolly mammoths ____ (b) ____ more than 40,000 years ago, but now they are extinct.
 Changes in the ____ (c) ____ can cause changes in climate and habitats.
 Elephants ____ (d) ____ from people exploiting them for their tusks.
 Soon it may be ____ (e) ____ to see any elephants. ____ (f) ____ they may become extinct.

Complete the following chart:

ELEPHANTS	
HOME	
WEIGHT	
HEIGHT	
FOOD	
CHARACTERISTICS	

Finish the sentences with the phrases at the end of the table:

Elephants disappeared.....	
The woolly mammoth became extinct.....	
The largest animal in the world....	
Elephants can communicate with....	

- is the elephant.
- from West Asia.
- ivory tusks.
- 4,000 years ago.
- low sounds.
- 7,000 years ago.

Write True (T), False (F), or Doesn't say (DS):

The elephant is the woolly mammoth's relative.	
Elephants are endangered because people kill them for their ivory.	
There are elephant sanctuaries all over the world.	
People are destroying elephants' land to build high buildings.	
Environmental groups are persuading people not to buy ivory.	
Elephants are carnivorous.	
Elephants live in groups.	

Answer the following questions:

There are two species of elephants. How can you tell an Asian elephant from an African elephant?

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What does the author want you to learn?

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