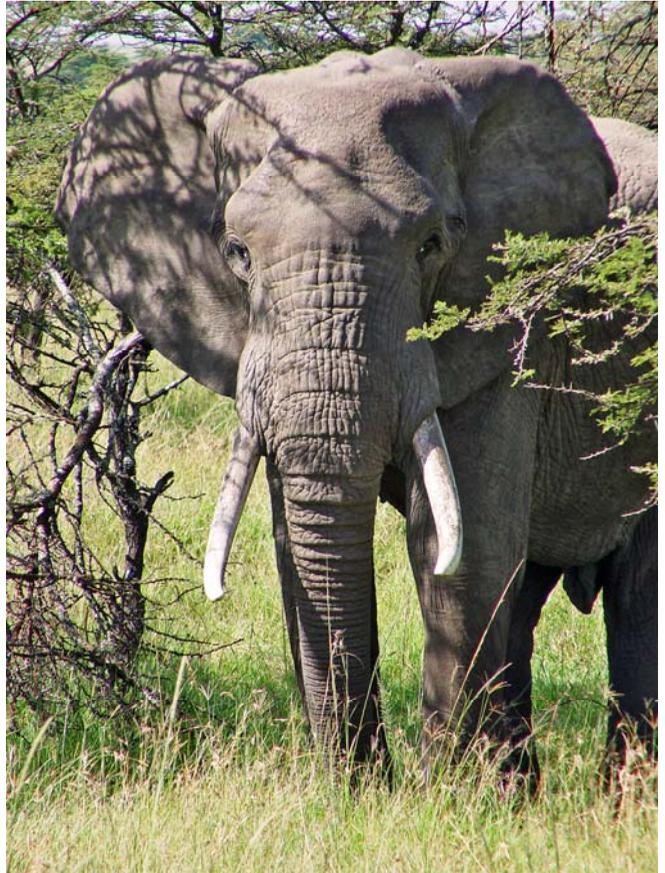


Elephants



Elephants are the largest land animal. They weigh up to 12,000 pounds and can be 12 feet tall!

Elephants live for a long time, up to 70 years.





There are two main kinds of elephants: African and Asian. Asian elephants have more hair. African elephants are bigger and they have bigger ears and tusks.



Baby elephants are called calves. They weigh about 250 pounds and are two and a half feet tall when they are born.

The other elephants in the group help the mother elephant take care of her baby.



Female elephants travel in groups called herds. A herd is made up of females. Male elephants tend to live alone.



Elephants are good swimmers, but they cannot jump or run very fast.



Elephants take mud baths and cover themselves with wet mud to protect their skin from the sun and biting bugs.

Elephants have huge ears. They flap their big ears on hot days, making a breeze that helps them cool off.



Elephant tusks are made out of ivory. They use their tusks for many things, like digging for food.



The tusks of African elephants can be over ten feet long and weigh over two hundred pounds.



Elephants are herbivores, which means they eat plants. They spend 16 hours a day eating food. An adult elephant can eat from 300 to 600 pounds of food in one day! But their body uses less than half of what they eat. What do you think happens to the rest?



Elephants have long trunks. They use their trunks to squirt water into their mouth and to pick up food.

They can also give themselves a shower with water they suck up into their trunk.



An elephant can use its trunk to smell. It sniffs the air to find food and to find other elephants.

An elephant's trunk can also tell you if they are happy or ready to fight!



Getting to see elephants in the zoo is a lot of fun, but maybe someday you could get to see elephants in the wild!

The Mustard Seed Books project uses an open-source, Wikipedia-type strategy, leveraging public expertise to create and refine a set of high-quality books that support early reading development. All of the books and pictures are covered by the Creative Commons License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>) and are free to print, distribute, and modify for personal or educational use. The books are available at www.mustardseedbooks.org. New titles appear on a regular basis.

There is a blog post on the website so that we can receive and discuss feedback on the books. These books have been revised a number of times, but we'd love to keep improving them. Any feedback is welcome. We also welcome photos or ideas for new books.

Photos for these books come primarily from Flickr (www.flickr.com) and the Morgue File (www.morguefile.com). Both sites are great resources for high-quality publicly accessible photos and for aspiring photographers looking to share their work. All photographs are covered by the Creative Commons License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>).

Photo credits:

Cover: "Arno & Louise"; page 1: "Tambako the Jaguar"; page 2: "Buckeye Beth," "M Kuhn"; page 3: Julian Mason; page 4: "Arno & Louise"; page 5: Shapour Bahrami; page 6: "Tambako the Jaguar", "Arno & Louise"; page 7: "TheLizardQueen"; page 8: "Arno & Louise"; page 9: Mike Richardson; page 10: Chad Rosenthal; page 11: "Tambako the Jaguar"; page 12: Vearl Brown.

BOOK LEVELS

Guided Reading: H
Grade Level: 1.8

Set 3 - Advanced 1st

Word Count: 342
Reading Recovery: 14

Our aim with this series of books is to weave together two significant goals in the design of early reading materials—that the books are both instructional and engaging. Books designed to develop reading skills often end up feeling like work to read, while books designed to be interesting are often too difficult for beginning readers.

These books for beginning readers support phonics-based classroom instruction by including a high concentration of phonetically regular words, as well as the most commonly used sight words. However, the books are written using pictures and stories that make sense, with simple language structures supporting independent reading and language development. Our intent is to produce books that kids want to read, think about, talk about and read again.

Mustard Seed Books - 2011

www.mustardseedbooks.org

These books are covered by the
Creative Commons License (by-nc-sa)

