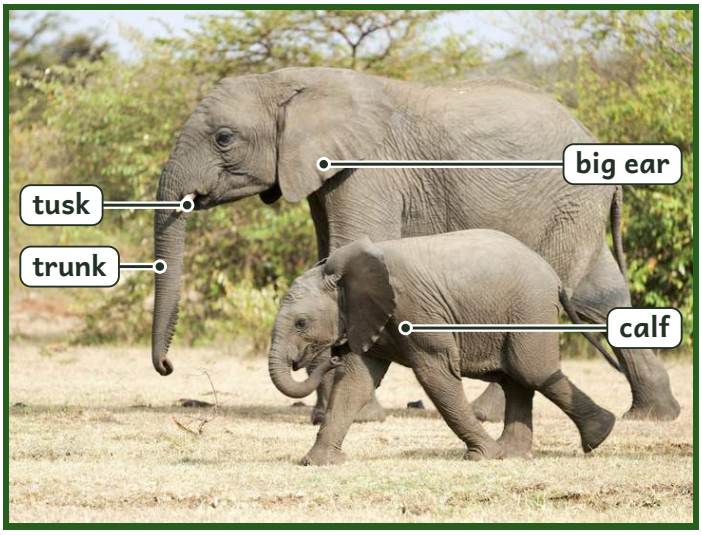
AFRICAN ELEPHANT

Loxodonta africana

GRADES K–2

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
Teachers may copy and share this sheet freely as long as they credit Plumpton Park Zoo.

Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



An elephant and her calf.

Its body

An elephant is very big.
It has a long **trunk**.
The trunk has 2 tips like fingers.
Its **tusks** are long teeth.

Its home (habitat)

Elephants live in Africa.
Females and young stay together.
An older female leads them.
These elephants are **endangered**.



Lives in parts of this area ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Its food

It eats trees and grass.
It eats bark and fruit too.
It uses its tusks to strip bark.

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby elephant is a **calf**.
A mother usually has 1 calf.
A new calf weighs 200 pounds or more.

Fun facts

Most of its air goes through its trunk.
Its dung spreads seeds far away.

Words to know

calf: a baby elephant
endangered: at risk, so it needs help
trunk: an elephant's long nose
tusk: a very long tooth

Talk about it

1. What can an elephant do with its tusks?
2. Who stays with a calf as it grows?
3. How does an elephant spread seeds?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/african-elephant/ · **Sources:** IUCN Red List; IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group; Animal Diversity Web; South African National Parks; Dagenais et al. (2021); University of Cape Town; Wittemyer et al. (2013).
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A) · 1-LS1-2 (3.1.1.B)
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AFRICAN ELEPHANT

Before and after you read

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the african elephant fact sheet for grades K–2 · © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
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Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you read · 5 minutes

What do you think? Circle **YES** or **NO**.

1. An elephant has a long trunk. **YES** **NO**
2. Elephants eat meat. **YES** **NO**
3. Tusks are long teeth. **YES** **NO**
4. A calf grows up all alone. **YES** **NO**

Look closely · with a partner

Look at the photo on page 1. Check each one you see.

- ☐ trunk
- ☐ tusk
- ☐ big ear
- ☐ calf

Where does it live? Find the dark part of the map, then circle.

Africa · Asia · Europe · Australia

After you read · 10 minutes

Draw an elephant using its trunk. Add a calf beside it.

Draw here

An elephant has a long _____

I learned that _____

ADJUST IT Kindergarten: read everything aloud; children talk and draw, and an adult writes their words. **Grade 2:** children read page 1 on their own. **Grades 3–5:** use the regular african elephant sheet on Teacher Resources. **Second source:** read about this animal in your class database or a library book too, then ask what both said and what was new. **Answers:** 1 yes, 2 no, 3 yes, 4 no. Map answer: Africa.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/african-elephant/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–1: Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): K-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-2 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A · 3.1.1.B
Reading and writing, grade 1: Maryland and Delaware: RI.1.1 · RI.1.7 · RI.1.9 · W.1.8 · Pennsylvania: CC.1.2.1.B · CC.1.2.1.G · CC.1.2.1.I · CC.1.4.1.W
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