Elephants Forever

By Sally Student

Can we prevent the extinction of elephants with education and involvement? The elephant is the largest land mammal on earth, lives in Africa and Asia, and is hunted ruthlessly for its ivory tusks. Elephants are grand!

First, the elephant is the largest animal on land. The elephant is a four-legged animal. It has a short tail but two white tusks. Its trunk is long. It is able to pick up the smallest coin with the help of its trunk. His eyes are small but ears are big like fans. It is a very useful animal. It has religious importance. People think it is a sign of happiness and welfare. In olden days, the elephant was used in war and battles. They were used to carry heavy guns and war materials. Many famous wars were fought with the help of elephants. The kings were fond of elephant riding. They were used in royal processions. Assam and Kerala are famous for their elephants. Furthermore, the African elephant elephants like to eat straw, twigs, fruit and sugarcane – pounds and pounds of food. “Elephants may spend 12-18 hours a day feeding. Since elephants are so large, they require an enormous amount of food. Adult elephants can eat between 200 -600 pounds of food a day. As herbivores, elephants consume grasses, tree foliage, bard, twigs, and other vegetation daily. Elephants can also drink up to 50 gallons of water a day – about as much as a standard bath tub holds.” That’s a lot of water and food!

Additionally, elephant habitats include the plains of Africa and Asia. “Elephants are able to survive in a variety of different locations because of the huge variety of food sources that they consume. Many people assume that elephants that are in the wild only live in the grasslands. While that is one of their main habitats, they can also be found in the desert of the Savannah, forest areas, where there are swamps, and everything in between.” Elephants needs a lot of space to live. Most elephants today live in National Parks. Living in National Parks, elephants get the space they need to survive, and hopefully thrive. With this in mind, the only enemy of the elephant is the human being. There are no natural enemies of the elephant. However, the sick and baby elephants are hunted by lions and crocodiles.

“It is no secret that they have been hunted for decades for their ivory tusks. With the weapons that humans have today the animals are simply no match for it.” Humans are deadly enemies to the elephant. Tusks are used to make the costly decoration pieces. They are called ivory pieces. “When most people think of elephants, they picture the large tusks. African elephants have long tusks, which are actually teeth. Sadly, people hunt elephants for those teeth. “In the end, one reason these giants of the animal kingdom are threatened is because people want to collect their tusks.” Do we want to lose these grand beasts? Trade restriction on ivory help poaching practices, but the black market demand is still outrageously high. People will pay large amounts of money for ivory pieces. This drives demand up, and elephants are killed. Moreover, “Humans also are predators of the land where elephants live. They wish to use that land for their own needs including homes, businesses, and clearing them out to make money from selling what is found there. This type of industry might make money for these people but at the price of the future for the elephants that are left with nowhere to go for the food and water they thrive on for survival” The love of owning land, building housing, and population growth of humans allows the clearing of elephant habitat. The forces the elephant out!

In conclusion, the elephant is the largest land mammal on earth that eats a lots of food, lives in Africa and Asia, and is hunted ruthlessly for its ivory tusks. Can we prevent the extinction of elephants with education and involvement? There are organizations dedicated to the protection of elephants. “In addition, you can help provide captive elephants with the best possible life. Encourage zoos to create environments similar to African elephant’s native habitat.” Many are committed to saving the elephant! Elephants forever.

Resources:

<http://www.animalfactguide.com/2016/08/world-elephant-day-2/>

<http://www.elephanttag.org/general/general_social.html>

http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/unforgettable-elephants-echos-family-tree/4488/

<http://www.preservearticles.com/2011082812067/192-words-essay-for-kids-on-the-elephant.html>

<http://kids.sandiegozoo.org/animals/mammals/african-elephant>

<http://www.elephant-world.com/elephant-habitat/>