

FASCINATING ELEPHANT FACTS

1. The average life span of an elephant is 60-70 years.
2. The elephant is the largest land animal in the world, weighing 300 lbs at birth.
3. The elephant has the longest gestation period of any mammal at up to 608 days or just about 22 months.
4. Elephants remember one another and humans, even after spending many years apart.
5. Some herds cover nearly 120 miles in a day. Usually an elephant walks at about 4mph and can run at about 15 mph. A charging elephant can reach speeds over 25 mph.
6. Elephants can communicate over long distances, using low frequency infrasound which can be heard across an area of 110 sq. miles. Messages may warn of impending danger or alert that a female is in heat.
7. The elephant has the biggest teeth of any animal and will have 6 sets of teeth during its lifetime.
8. Tusks are enlarged incisor teeth that are permanent and grow continuously. They can weigh over 220 lbs. each. Elephants are right or left tusked just as we are right or left handed.
9. An elephant's trunk has 150,000 muscles. Elephants need to rest their trunks.
10. Females stay in family groups. Adult males are solitary.
11. Elephants grieve at the loss of a stillborn baby, the loss of a family member and the loss of other elephants from the herd.
12. Elephants play, cry and laugh.
13. Each elephant consumes about 550 lbs of food a day.
14. An elephant's skin can be up to 1 in. thick in some places but it is also very sensitive and detect a fly landing on it.
15. Elephant dung is full of grainy fibrous material and once processed can be excellent paper.