



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE ELEPHANT

Did you know that there are two different types of elephants? There is the African elephant and the Asian elephant. African elephants are the biggest land animals, and Asian elephants are the next biggest. Elephants are very social animals and live in groups. Female elephants head the groups. Only occasionally will a male elephant take charge of a group.

It's hard to imagine, but elephants are very good swimmers. This seems unusual because elephants are such big animals. Elephants can get as big as 10 feet tall and weigh about 6 tons! Male elephants are usually bigger than females. They have gray or brownish wrinkled skin that has almost no hair. Elephants are also known for their big ears. They can hear very well with these ears. These ears also help the elephant cool off.

The elephant breathes through the nostrils at the end of its very long trunk. The trunk is also used to get water and food. The elephant uses its trunk to suck up the water that is then shot into its mouth. The trunk also gathers food and brings it to the mouth. Elephants use their trunks similarly to the way that we use our hands. Elephants are herbivores, eating mostly roots, grasses, leaves, fruit, and tree bark. They use their tusks along with their trunks to get their food.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. How does the author feel about elephants?
  - a. The author is in favor of elephant control.
  - b. The author feels that elephants are interesting animals.
  - c. The author is afraid of elephants.
  - d. The author sees the need and purpose for more laws on elephant poaching.
2. The second paragraph informs the reader about . . .
  - a. the anatomy of the elephant.
  - b. the diet of an elephant.
  - c. the history of the elephant.
  - d. the predator of the elephant.
3. What is the meaning of the word *herbivore*?
 

a. meat eater	c. plant eater
b. meat or plant eater	d. none of the above
4. Where might this information about the elephant most likely be found?
  - a. in a pamphlet on elephants
  - b. in a newspaper article
  - c. in a book about carnivores
  - d. in a book about animals in Asia



**The Elephant**

1. b
2. a
3. c
4. a