

AFRICAN ANIMALS

LION

The lion is the second largest cat in the world, unlike other cats, lions are very social animals. They live in groups, called prides, of around 30 lions. A pride consists of up to three males, around 12 or so females, and their young cubs. The size of the pride is often determined by the area in which they live, areas which have a vast amount of food and water will have larger size herds, where as areas which have less food and water supplies will have smaller prides. Female lions do 85-90% of the prides hunting, whilst the male lions protect the pride and their territory. A wild lion can live anywhere between 12 and 16 years old, lions that live in captivity can live up to 25 years.

Did you know?

- An adult male's roar can be heard up to 8km away.
- A female lion needs 5kg of meat a day. A male needs 7kg or more a day.
- Lions go on the hunt for food mostly from dusk till dawn.
- Lions run at a speed of up to 80 kilometres per hour.
- Lions hunt large animals such as zebra and wildebeest.



ELEPHANT

The African Elephant is the largest land animal in the world, they can weigh up to 6000 kg and measuring up to 3.3 metres in height at the shoulder mark. The African elephant is known for its handy and useful trunk, long curved tusks, and massive ears.

Did you know?

- The largest elephant on record was an adult male African elephant. It weighed about 10,800 kilograms and was 3.9 metres tall at the shoulder!
- Elephants can live to be over 70 years old.
- Only one mammal can't jump it is the elephant.
- Elephants have a highly developed brain and the largest of all land mammals. Its brain is 3 or 4 times larger than a humans although it is smaller proportionally.
- Elephants have poor eyesight but an amazing sense of smell.



Did you know that August 12 is World Elephant Day! A day dedicated to the preservation and protection of the world's elephants.

GIRAFFE

The Giraffe is the tallest land animal in the world, they can grow to an average height of around 5 metres. They are characterised by their long legs, long neck, and unique spotted pattern. Giraffes mainly live in savannah areas in the Sub-Saharan region of Africa. Their extreme height allows them to eat leaves and shoots located much higher than other animals can reach. Their long tongues are helpful in eating because they help pull leaves from the trees. Spending most of the day eating, a full-grown giraffe consumes over 45 kilograms of leaves and twigs a day.

Did you know?

- People used to believe that the giraffe was a cross between a leopard and a camel, which is reflected in its scientific name, 'Giraffa camelopardalis'.
- Although a giraffe's neck is 1.5 – 1.8 metres, it contains the same number of vertebrae at a human neck.
- Giraffes are ruminants. This means that they have more than one stomach. In fact, giraffes have four stomachs, the extra stomachs assisting with digesting food.



LEOPARD

Leopards are well known for their appearance, a cream and gold spotted fur, however there are some leopards which have black fur with dark spots. These black leopards can often be mistaken for panthers. Unlike lions, an adult leopard is often a solitary animal, each adult leopard will have its own territory where it lives and, although they may share certain areas with another leopard, they will try to avoid one another if possible.

Did you know?

- A leopard's body is built for hunting; they have powerful bodies and can run at speeds of up to 57 kilometres per hour. They are also excellent swimmers and climbers and can leap and jump long distances.
- Leopards are mostly nocturnal, hunting prey at night.



HIPPOPOTAMUS

The hippopotamus is usually considered the third largest land mammal, after the White rhinoceros and elephant. A male hippopotamus is called a 'bull', a female hippopotamus is called a 'cow' and a baby hippo is called a 'calf'. A group of hippos is known as a 'herd', 'pod', 'dale' or 'bloat'. As they have such dense bodies they actually find it quite difficult to swim, even though they spend most of their time in the water. Their eyes, ears and nostrils are located at the top of their head, so they are able to see, hear, and breathe while mostly submerged. A full grown hippo can weigh up to 3600 kilograms.

Did you know?

- The name hippopotamus means 'river horse'.
- Hippopotamuses give birth in water.
- Although hippos might look a little chubby, they can easily outrun a human.



RHINOCEROS

There are five different species of rhinoceros, three native to southern Asia and two native to Africa. They are the Black Rhinoceros, White Rhinoceros, Indian Rhinoceros, Javan Rhinoceros and Sumatran Rhinoceros. All five species of rhinoceros can grow to weigh over 1000 kg. For their size the Rhino has a very small brain. A main characteristic for a rhino is their horn, they are made from a protein called keratin, which is the same substance that human fingernails and hair are made of.

Did you know?

- The name rhinoceros means 'nose horn' and is often shortened to rhino.
- A group of rhinoceros is called a 'herd' or a 'crash'.
- White rhinos and black rhinos live in the grasslands and floodplains of eastern and southern Africa.
- Rhinos spend their days and nights grazing and only sleep during the hottest parts of the day.



OTHER AFRICAN ANIMALS...



Nile crocodile

There are around 64-68 cone-shaped teeth in the Nile crocodile's mouth.

Zebra

Every zebra has a unique pattern of black and white stripes.



Mountain Gorilla

Adult gorillas can eat up to 30 kilograms of food each day.



Cheetah

The cheetah is the fastest land animal in the world. They can reach a top speed of around 113 km per hour.

