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# ELEPHANT

Narrated by Meghan, The Duchess of Sussex



Disney + PIXAR + MARVEL + STAR WARS + NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Original Movie Streaming April 3

## Activity Packet

Created in Partnership with Disney's Animals, Science and Environment

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**ELEPHANT**



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**Narrated by Meghan, The Duchess of Sussex, Disneynature's ELEPHANT follows African elephant Shani and her spirited son Jomo as their herd makes an epic journey hundreds of miles across the vast Kalahari Desert. Led by their great matriarch, Gaia, the family faces brutal heat, dwindling resources and persistent predators, as they follow in their ancestor's footsteps on a quest to reach a lush, green paradise.**

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[nature.disney.com](http://nature.disney.com)

# Matriarch, May I?

**E**lephants are one of the largest mammals in the world, growing up to 11 ft tall (340 cm) and weighing up to 11,000 lbs (4,990 kg). To support their large bodies, elephants must eat a plentiful supply of vegetation such as grass, leaves, twigs, bark and other plants. In order to survive the dry season when food and water become scarce, elephants in Botswana migrate across the Kalahari Desert to the Okavango Delta in search of food and water. Making up a large portion of northwestern Botswana, the Okavango Delta floods with water and creates lush marshlands during the dry winters—a perfect place for elephants and other animals to gather and feed on their favorite foods.

Though male elephants often live on their own, female elephants are very social animals, forming herds, or family groups of elephants. Elephant herds are typically led by an older, experienced female, called a matriarch.

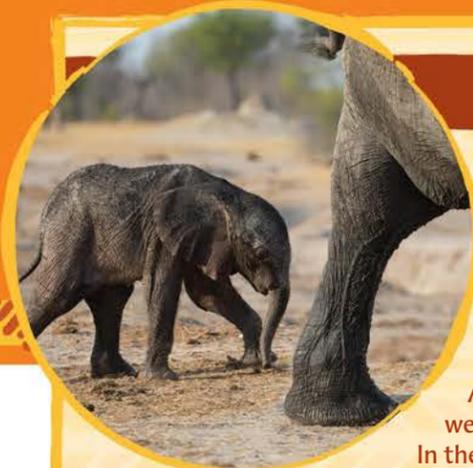
Have you ever heard the phrase “an elephant never forgets?” Well, it’s true! The matriarch will lead her herd on their migration over hundreds of miles, recalling specific information from her previous years of making the migration journey across Botswana in order to lead her family to their destination successfully. She provides guidance and protection for the herd and is able to pass information on to younger generations to help them survive long after she is gone.

Imagine if you were an elephant and had to remember a migration route spanning hundreds of miles! If you were the matriarch of an elephant herd, how well do you think you would be able to lead your family? Turn to the next page to head out on a nature journey of your own to test your memory.



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## TEST YOUR MEMORY

With a family member or friend, head outdoors to a nearby nature spot. Have your friend or family member lead you on a route to get you from one place to another—for example, from the biggest tree in your backyard or neighborhood to your favorite flower bush. The route can be made more difficult by adding obstacles or specific actions; some suggestions have been provided below to get you started.

After the route is complete, see if you can recall the exact path you were taken on, including any special steps or actions along the way. In the space below, draw your route from memory as best as you can.

*Nature Note: Be sure to check with an adult before venturing outdoors.*

### Obstacle Ideas:



Jump over a **ROCK**.



Stop to smell a **FLOWER**.



Circle around a **TREE**.



Use a **LOG** like a balance beam.

## My Outdoor Route

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# Hear The Herd

**D**uring their migration across Botswana, African elephants will encounter a variety of other animals as they pass through different habitats. Though elephants don't have many predators, they can at times be vulnerable to attacks from animals such as lions, crocodiles and hyenas. Elephants need to communicate with one another to keep their herd together and migrate safely towards food and water.

Elephants are able to communicate with other elephants in a variety of ways by using sounds, touch and even sense of smell. Scientists have discovered that elephants use specific sounds and movements to communicate certain actions. Visually, elephants use all parts of their body to signal and send messages to each other, such as moving their trunks or shaking their heads. Acoustically, they will

produce a range of sounds. You may recognize elephants for their signature "trumpeting" call which they make by using their trunk—but this is not the only sound they make. Elephants produce "rumbles" and other noises at a low frequency that human ears cannot hear. These special vocalizations help elephants keep in touch up to 2.4 miles (4 km) away!

Think about a time when you were meeting a friend or family member somewhere with a large group of people. How did you get their attention? Were they able to hear you over the crowd or did you need to jump up and down and wave your arms? Head to the next page to develop your own communication style based on how elephants communicate with one another.



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## TALK LIKE AN ELEPHANT

In the table below, learn how elephants communicate with each other through different sounds and movements. Then, with a friend or family member, create your own sounds and movements to develop a new way of communicating with each other. Do not use written or spoken words—instead make noises and use your entire body to create your secret language. See if you can guess what each other is trying to communicate. For example, if you were trying to communicate that you are hungry, you could make a silly growl noise and rub your stomach and ask your friend to guess what you are trying to communicate.

### Greeting

#### How An Elephant Communicates

**Sound:** Overlapping rumbles and trumpets

**Movement:** Gentle trunk rubbing and entwining

#### My Communication

**Sound:**

**Movement:**

#### My Friend's Communication

**Sound:**

**Movement:**

### Exploring

#### How An Elephant Communicates

**Sound:** Low murmur or rumble

**Movement:** Body faces desired direction with trunk to the ground, outreached

#### My Communication

**Sound:**

**Movement:**

#### My Friend's Communication

**Sound:**

**Movement:**

### Sharing Food

#### How An Elephant Communicates

**Sound:** No sound

**Movement:** Uses trunk to put food in the mouths of other elephants

#### My Communication

**Sound:**

**Movement:**

#### My Friend's Communication

**Sound:**

**Movement:**

### Playing

#### How An Elephant Communicates

**Sound:** Playful trumpeting

**Movement:** Wagging of head or looking at an elephant who might want to play and folding the trunk to rest on tusks

#### My Communication

**Sound:**

**Movement:**

#### My Friend's Communication

**Sound:**

**Movement:**

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# Saving Elephants

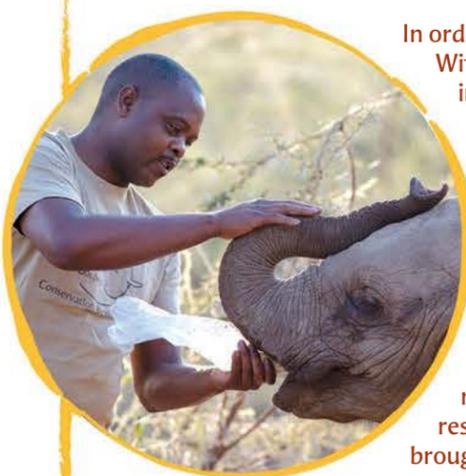
**E**lephants play a very important role in the environment, especially in the Okavango Delta. Their daily activities and interactions influence their habitat, often to the benefit of other animals. For example, when elephants eat certain trees and plants, they leave behind seeds that pass through them, along with mighty mounds of fertilizer to help new plants grow. Additionally, elephants dig shallow pools to access water underground, which is helpful not only to them, but other animals in the area. However, from a global standpoint, African elephants are considered “vulnerable” in the wild, with most of their threats being caused by humans. Some of the most prominent threats to African elephants include habitat loss, the poaching of elephants for their ivory tusks, and other human-elephant conflicts.

Elephants have been migrating through the same areas of Botswana for so long that they continue to follow the same routes each year. With the further development of land, people have moved into the natural migration paths of elephants, which can cause conflict between people and the elephants. In some areas of Africa, farmers, for example, have had a difficult time living in harmony with

elephants due to elephants eating or destroying their crops. This can severely impact the livelihood of a farmer and their family, which might cause them to retaliate with harm to the elephant.

Poaching continues to be a huge threat to the survival of elephants as well. In Africa, poachers hunt elephants for their tusks, seeking profit by killing the animal and selling their ivory which is carved into works of art. In some countries, it is also believed that ivory has special healing and medicinal power. There is no scientific evidence to support that claim, and the effort to end elephant poaching has united governments and non-profit organizations around the world.

Luckily, there are many solutions to help combat these issues. With the dedication of many individuals and the support of many organizations, efforts are underway to help study and save wild elephant populations. And though elephants may be far from where you live, there are ways you can help protect these animals in the wild yourself. Head to the next page to test your knowledge on elephant conservation and get involved!



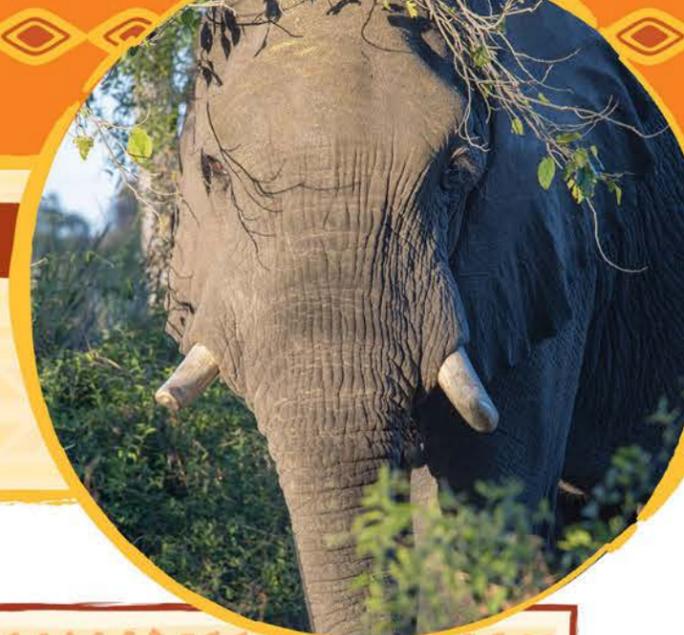
In order to help protect elephants and their habitats, organizations like Elephants Without Borders are working to conserve wildlife and natural resources through innovative research, education and community engagement. Elephants Without Borders has been working on a project to restore “natural elephant migration routes” which has resulted in less human-elephant conflict. Knowing that elephants are unaware of “political boundaries”, Elephants Without Borders set out to give them their own “environment and space to travel through without affecting people.”

Elephants Without Borders also works with the Department of Wildlife & National Parks to provide fast action for animals in distress and emergencies. Some of the emergencies that Elephants Without Borders has assisted in include wildlife being caught in snares and fences. Snares are created by poachers and made to be painful and impossible to remove without assistance. The wildlife rescue team within Elephants Without Borders can assist and minimize the harm brought to animals. (Source: Elephants Without Borders)

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## PROTECTING ELEPHANTS

There are many ways to protect elephants, even in your own home! In the columns below, match some of the activities you can do by drawing a line to the action you can take to help with conservation efforts of elephants in the wild.



**1.**  
You are visiting a museum and see a piece of art made out of snares from Africa.



**2.**  
You learn about an elephant population that's in trouble from a news article or website.



**3.**  
You are on vacation with your family and want to buy a souvenir.



**a.**  
Start a poster campaign at your school to spread awareness about threats elephants face in the wild.

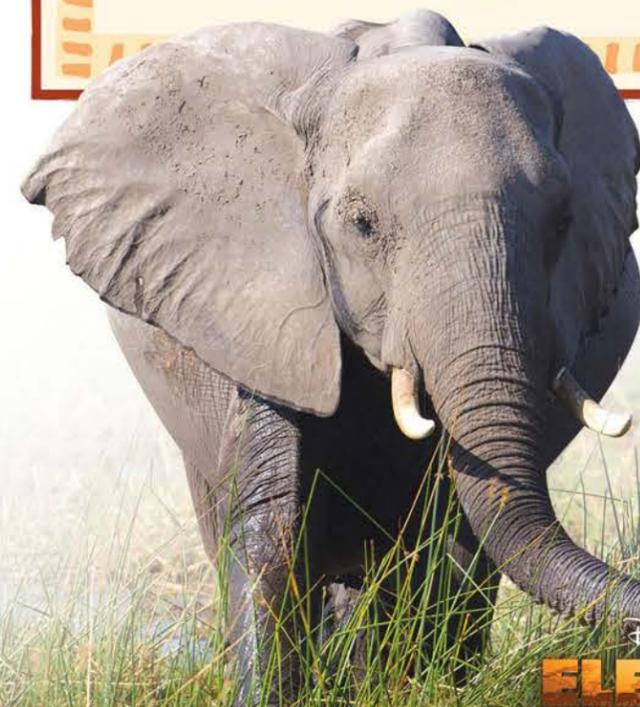


**b.**  
Ensure the item is wildlife friendly before purchasing.

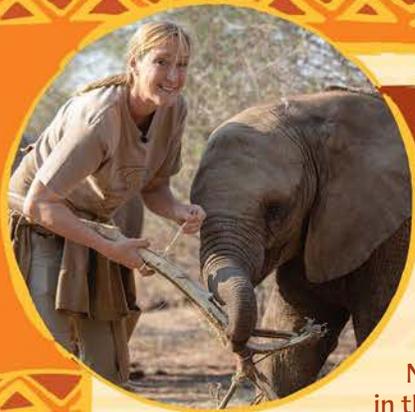


**c.**  
Research more about the impacts of snares on wildlife and why conservation efforts are important.

ANSWER KEY: 1. C, 2. A, 3. B



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## TAKING CONSERVATION ACTION

Decide which aspect of elephant conservation you are passionate about. Perhaps it's helping to end the elephant ivory trade or protecting elephant habitat in the wild by supporting conservation organizations. Once you have decided on your area of focus, spread the word by telling friends and family what you have learned. With the supervision of an adult, you may also utilize social media to share information.

Now, in the box below, draw a picture of the elephants you are helping to protect in the wild! Cut out your drawing and hang it on your wall as a daily reminder of the elephants you are helping to defend.



In recognition of **ELEPHANT**, Disneynature and the Disney Conservation Fund are supporting Elephants Without Borders, an organization working in Botswana to ensure people and elephants thrive. Elephants Without Borders is working on strategies to protect Botswana's elephant haven, helping to reduce human-wildlife conflict through education, economic development, and solutions that either redirect elephant migration away from people, or provide communities with tools that help to protect themselves and their properties when elephants are nearby.

You can learn more about the Disney Conservation Fund by visiting [Disney.com/conservation](https://www.Disney.com/conservation)



### Acknowledgement

Disney's Animals, Science and Environment would like to take this opportunity to thank the amazing teams that came together to develop the Disneynature **ELEPHANT** Activity Packet. It was created with great care, collaboration and the talent and hard work of many incredible individuals. A special thank you to Dr. Mark Penning for his ongoing support in developing engaging educational content that connects families with nature. These materials would not have happened without the diligence and dedication of Kyle Huetter who worked side by side with the filmmakers to help create these compelling activities. Special thanks to Bethany Eriksen and Ashley Dion who authored the unique writing found throughout each page and whose creative thinking and artistry developed games and activities into a world of outdoor exploration. Special thanks to directors Alastair Fothergill and Keith Scholey as well as producer Roy Conli, for creating such an amazing story that inspired the activities found within this packet. Lastly, thank you to Angela Shaw, Noah Duman and Samantha Rosenberg at The Walt Disney Studios for your help and unwavering support of this project.

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Education Line of Business Manager  
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