

## Which Life Would You Choose for Me?

**WebQuest Description:** Join Tange on a journey to discover what life would be good for her and all other elephants. In this activity students will learn about life in captivity and sanctuary/wild and they will determine which lifestyle is best for elephants. Explore what it takes to care for an elephant such as food, washing, illness and then as a group create a Public Service Announcement, a news article, or a brochure to present to the class.

**Grade Level:** 6-8

**Curriculum:** Science

**Keywords:** elephant, elephant care, elephant captivity, sanctuary, life in captivity

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### Introduction

Hello there! My name is Tange and I live at the Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald, Tennessee with my friends! We all moved in after living in captivity. Now is your chance to explore about the lives of elephants and how much work it is to take care of us. Along the way, you will learn many different things about us, about living in captivity or in the sanctuary, and we are going to let you decide what life you think is better for us! Are you ready? Get those safari hats on! Here we go!

### Tasks

You and your group will work together to learn about the different lifestyles for elephants. Once you have gone through and learned all you need to know, your group can choose your final presentation. You can create a Public Service Announcement, which is a short commercial, about the lives of elephants and share it with the class. You may also write a news article to present to the class. Lastly, you may choose to create a brochure or a pamphlet to hand out to the class, presenting your new found information to the class.

### Process

You and your teammates are about to embark on a fantastic safari to learn about elephants and their lives in captivity or in sanctuary. Along the way you should take notes on important facts to include in your final presentation. Got your safari caps on? Let's go! First stop: An elephant...what is that? In this section, you will learn basic facts about elephants. Read through the site and answer these questions along the way: What is the first known ancestor of the modern day elephant? How do we know it is related to our elephants? The ancestor lived an amphibious life. Are today's elephants amphibians? What are they? How many species of elephants are in the world today? How can you distinguish between the species? How many sets of teeth do elephants have? What happens when they lose their teeth? What are an elephant's tusks? <http://www.elephantartgallery.com/support/elephant-facts-and-figures.php> Next up: Caring for elephants. How much food does an elephant eat per day? What does their diet consist of? Do they get any treats? In captivity, how do elephants get bathed? What about in sanctuary? What is done to an elephant's hair when they are in captivity? What infection is very dangerous for elephants? What can be done to care for that part of the body? Name a disease that is harmful to elephants and give examples of a cure. What is positive reinforcement training? An elephant takes 24/7 watch, care, and providing for. <http://www.uft.org/committees/humane-education-committee/humane-science-curricula/elephants-wild-and-captivity> <http://www.globalelephants.org/rambas-feet/#more-2007> Go about halfway down for foot care <http://www.elephantcare.org/diseases.htm> [http://activeenvironments.org/pdf/Trng\\_Enrich\\_EEconf.pdf](http://activeenvironments.org/pdf/Trng_Enrich_EEconf.pdf) Life in Captivity Versus Wild/Sanctuary What kind of needs do elephants have that cannot be offered in captivity? List three or four and discuss why they are important. What is the lifespan of an elephant in captivity? What about in the wild? What are a couple reasons for this? What good things does a sanctuary provide to elephants? Is a sanctuary life, a captive life? <http://www.peta.org/issues/animals-in-entertainment/zoos/get-elephants-zoos> <http://animals.pawnation.com/life-span-elephants-2233.html> <http://www.icanimal.org/index.php/campaigns/elephants/wild-vs-captive> What can you do to help? What are six things you can do to help? What method would each of you group members choose? <http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/stories/6-ways-to-help-elephants> Did you learn anything new? I sure hope so! Next up, it is time to get your project all ready to show your class!

### Evaluation

Category and Score	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)	Score
Collaborative Work	Student works very well with other group members and listens to other students' ideas. Student uses time well.	Student works well with other group members. Student listens to ideas but fails to use time well.	The student works okay with other group members but does not listen to other students' ideas and does not manage his/her time well.	Student does not seem to be part of the group and does not work with others. Student does not listen to other students' ideas and does not manage time well.	25%
Writing, presentation, and style (spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, structure, organization)	No errors.	Very few or minor errors, content presented well.	Several or major errors took away from presentation.	Too many errors. Presentation deemed inadequate.	25%
Personal Performance in Presentation	Student presents their portion of the project well. The student knows their information very well and you can tell they have done their research.	Student presents their information but may not have done as much preparing as they needed to. You can tell they have done their research.	Student presents their material but does not seem to be very knowledgeable about their topic. They may not have done as much research as they needed.	Student has very little if any, information to present to the class. You can tell they did not do as much research needed for this group project.	50%
				Total Score	

## Conclusion

Hey guys! Remember me? It's Tange! My friend Zula is standing with me, on the right side. This picture was taken when we were moving to our new home at the sanctuary in Tennessee. Did you learn any cool facts you did not know before? You can include some of those in your presentation if you want. I talked to your teacher and they want to know if you came up with a decision about how other elephants and I should spend our lives? Should we live in captivity, the wild, or a sanctuary? Make sure you put the answer in your presentation! Here are some links to some sanctuaries, including ours, where you can learn more about helping and saving elephants! <http://www.elephants.com/> <http://www.pawsweb.org> <http://www.elephantnaturepark.org/> <http://www.blesele.org/>

## Teacher Page

Hello teachers! This webquest was created for students to learn about elephant life. The main question students have to answer is whether or not elephants should live in captivity or in the wild/a sanctuary. This webquest should be completed in groups of 3 or 4 students and should only take about an hour or less to complete. Extra time will be needed for completion of the final presentation. Once your students finish their projects, you can choose to submit them to the Global Sanctuary for Elephants by sending them to P.O. Box 2426 Brentwood, TN 37024 or by email to [kat@globalelephants.org](mailto:kat@globalelephants.org)! Good luck on your journey and I hope you enjoy this Webquest as much as I did!

### Standards

The standards addressed in this webquest are based on the NC State Standards for science and technology for grades 6-8.

7.L.2. Understand the relationship of the mechanisms of cellular reproduction, patterns of inheritance and external factors to potential variation among offspring.

8.L.3. Understand how organisms interact with and respond to the biotic and abiotic components of their environment.

6.TT.1. Use technology and other resources for the purpose of accessing, organizing, and sharing information.

6.RP.1. Apply a research process for collaborative or individual research.

7.TT.1. Use technology and other resources for assigned tasks.

7.RP.1 Apply a research process to complete given tasks.

8.TT.1. Use technology and other resources for assigned tasks.

8.RP.1. Apply a research process to complete project-based activities.

### Credits

Images on this webquest are taken from Google Images under the keyword search of "elephants" and also from The Elephant Sanctuary Website.

### Other