

## Elephant Elements

**WebQuest Description:** What does it take for an Elephant to survive?

**Grade Level:** 3-5

**Curriculum:** Science

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### Introduction

Today you are going to be going on an African Safari! Get ready for an amazing adventure... BUT FIRST you must become experts on the animal you are studying on this Safari! THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT Did you know? The African Elephant is the largest land animal on Earth! Their large ears radiate heat to help keep them cool. The Trunk of the African Elephant has many purposes including smelling, breathing, drinking, and grabbing things. These are only a few facts about these large and majestic animals. It is your job to discover more! Your job will be to find what it takes for an African Elephant to survive and how their habitat or natural home or environment provides them with the resources to do so.

### Tasks

Hello, and welcome to the African Safari. Here you will be challenged with discovering all there is to know about the natural habitat of an African Elephant. You will work with your small groups to write a short book, create a PowerPoint, or make a 3D model about the African Elephant's natural habitat. Your group will work together to choose which media you would like to use for this collaboration. But before you get started you must learn everything there is to know about the African Elephant. So get started on your research! Let the Safari begin...

### Process

Step 1- Get together with your small group of 5. First you will assign jobs for each of your group members. Each member has to choose one topic to become an expert on about African Elephants and their habitats. The topics to choose from are: Elephant Diet- what do elephants eat, how often do they need to eat and drink. Anything you find important about an Elephant's diet should be included in this. Elephant Behavior- are elephants lone wolves or do they like to have company with them? Do they play or are they strictly business like a worker bee? Do they migrate or stay in one place? All of these are questions to consider about elephant behavior. Elephant Young- What are baby elephants called? Do elephants have litters like dogs and cats or do they only have one baby like humans? Do Elephants care for their young and keep them close, or do they have to fend for themselves? These are questions to consider if your topic is elephant young. Elephant Habitat- Is it cold or hot where African Elephants live? Do they have a large area to roam or is it a confined space? Do they share this habitat with many other animals? Elephant Lifespan- Do elephants have any predators? What is the major cause of death for animals? How long do they normally live? Is the lifespan of the elephant declining? All five of these topics relate to each other in some way. It is important to keep this in mind while working on this project, I want you to see the link between all 5 of these topics! There are links below to help you get started on your research. However, these are not all the sites out there with good information. Try to find other sources, but these are good jumping off points! The questions listed next to the topics are good to consider, but should not be the limit of your research. Do your best to discover all you can about these topics. Remember, your goal is to be an EXPERT! You will be given the weekend to do this research. Step 2- Once you have become an expert on your topic rejoin your group and briefly share your findings. Once you have discussed the information you have found you are going to pick which media you want to use to share your information with. The options are: Power Point- must be at least 25 slides long plus a work cited and title page. Each topic must have three slides dedicated to it. The group member's topic must be placed somewhere on the slides. There must be pictures, and descriptions. Book- Must be 25 pages long. Drawings or pictures must be included. Pages should be numbered, and topics clearly labeled. 3D Model of an African Habitat- There must be a typed up description of the model. It must depict all 5 topics. There must be a typed description of each 5 topics that corresponds to the model. This description must be at least one page long. Once your group agrees on a media you will begin to compile your information to share with the rest of your Safari group so they can be better educated on the African Elephant. You will have a week to complete this. If your choice is a book I have blank books for you to use. If you choose the model I have materials to get you started, let me know of any extra materials you need, and I will provide them for you. Step 3- Create your presentation for the African Elephant. Your group must work together to make the information flow from topic to topic. All members should put in an equal amount of effort and collaborate with the other members to complete the project. You will be graded on participation, everyone must do their part in this project. Step 4- Step 4 is the conclusion of the project, you will individually write why they believe the African Elephant's habitat is important to its survival, and how it supports its diet, behavior, lifespan and its young. Remember I told you that all of these topics were linked to each other! Think, how would removing the habitat from the link effect the African Elephant? The projects will be graded based on group participation, project appearance and information, and individual conclusion.

## Evaluation

Students are expected to do their best work, and work well with their group. below is a rubric to follow when working on this project.

Category and Score	Beginning	Developing	Very Good	Exemplary	Score
Works well with group members, participates, does individual job within the group.	Student did not work well with group members, did not participate, and did not do their assigned job.	Student worked somewhat with group, participated minimally, did little work for their individual job.	Student worked well with their group members, participated openly, and worked diligently on their individual job.	Student worked well will all group members, participated and contributed to every discussion, and did worked extremely well on their individual job.	25 points
Project.	Students did not turn in the Power Point, book, or 3D model.	Students turned in the Power Point, book, or 3D model, but did not follow requirements on process page, did not have enough slides, pages, or a paper.	Students turned in the Power Point, book, or 3D model meeting all requirements on process page. Thought process is evident.	Students turned in the Power Point, book, or 3D model that met all the requirements and went above and beyond with an evident thought process and effort.	25 points
Individual reflection on African Elephant.	Student did not submit a reflection.	Student did not seem to understand the African Elephant. Could list less than 5 facts about the elephant or their habitat.	Student includes at least 5 important facts about elephants and their habitat and clearly has a grasp on the topic.	Student includes more than 10 important facts about African Elephants and their habitat. Writes with conviction and understanding on the topic.	25 points
Grammar and Organization.	Student work over all is unorganized and has many grammatical errors.	Student work is somewhat organized but still has many grammatical errors.	Student work is organized with minimal grammatical errors.	Student work is very organized and has less than 2 grammatical errors.	25 points
				Total Score	100 points

## Conclusion

Congratulations! You have now become an expert on the African Elephant and did not lead your Safari group astray! Who would have guessed that an Elephant was such a complex creature? Now that you know everything there is to know about these animals you are ready to share your knowledge with others so they can be informed too. If you want to learn more about African Elephants visit any of the resources on the process page or do your own research and dig up some cool facts! Don't forget to share them with your teacher and classmates. Next stop on the world tour? Who knows, maybe we will visit the Arctic Tundra to study the Arctic Wolves! Until then, enjoy the hot African sun!

## Teacher Page

This WebQuest is designed for a fourth grade science lesson. It would take approximately a week to do the entire lesson based on a science block of 45 minutes. This lesson can be expanded by giving every group a different habitat to study or letting them pick the animal in the habitat they want to become experts on. Every group could get assigned a different animal from the same habitat as well. This lesson can be differentiated for high learners by having them compare two habitats and explain why a certain animal would not thrive in one habitat compared to the other. This lesson can be differentiated for low learners by giving them the exact websites and sources you want them to use for their group topic. This way the teacher can be sure he or she is getting good information from the sites.

### Standards

NC State Standards for Fourth grade Science:

#### 4.L.1.1

Give examples of changes in an organism's environment that are beneficial to it and some that are harmful.

#### 4.L.1.2

Explain how animals meet their needs by using behaviors in response to information received from the environment.

English Fourth grade standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.2a. Introduce a topic clearly and group related information in paragraphs and sections; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.2b Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.2c Link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases (e.g., another, for example, also,

because).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.2d Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.2e Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.

**Credits**

**Other**