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11 YRS

Take a Ride, on a Prickly Hide!

Massive bodies, enormous white ivory tusks, long trunks for stripping bark and leaves, wrinkled tough skin that twigs don't harm a bit, and inch long hairs that can pierce right through thick layers of jeans.

Majestic of the Wild

The elephant is the largest animal on land. It stands four meters tall (only the giraffe is taller) and can weigh up to six thousand pounds or more! The average male is about as tall as a one story house and spends more than half the time it's awake, eating. These animals mostly live up to sixty-five years in the wild. They are known for their intelligence.

If an elephant is in trouble, they will call out to any other elephants from their herd. These mammals can hear up to 2½ miles away. Their calls vibrate through the ground so they can hear each other over far distances.

Elephant Empathy

Elephants may become an endangered species; they are on the threatened species list. One of the main reasons is because of their ivory tusks. Ivory is a precious material that their tusks are made of. Hunters kill elephants for their tusks. Most of them go out with their guns and kill the harmless creature just for the tusks. Others just injure them, take the tusks and leave the animal to bleed to death.

Besides the fact that people hunt elephants for their tusks, trees and forests are being cut down for farmland. As time passes elephants lose much of their shelter, and the amount of living space drastically decreases. Also, their amount of food supply gets scarcer and scarcer. Herds have to travel kilometer after kilometer to find more food water and shelter. Some go mad and charge at the farms and houses destroying many things in its path. Most get killed in the rampage but a few survive and escape.

Another reason is global warming. In the forest the weather is usually hot. (Elephants can cool themselves by catching the wind. They do this by flapping their ears back and forth). Elephants have a very strong memory, they can travel to a watering hole they haven't been to for a couple of years. But what happens if the water is dried up or polluted? If the water is dried up; the elephant might die if it doesn't get any water for more than a period of five days. If the water is polluted; the elephant might fall sick and get a bunch of diseases, maybe too many for its immune system to fight.

Save the Elephant!

Elephants are amazing creatures with amazing abilities buy they are in grave danger of going extinct. People have founded 'Save the Elephants!' organizations to keep them from going extinct.

Many countries have banned the hunting of elephants to help this majestic creature's population grown again and wander the forest once more like before.