

LEVELED BOOK • H

# Elephants: Giant Mammals



Written by Jane Ling

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# **Elephants: Giant Mammals**

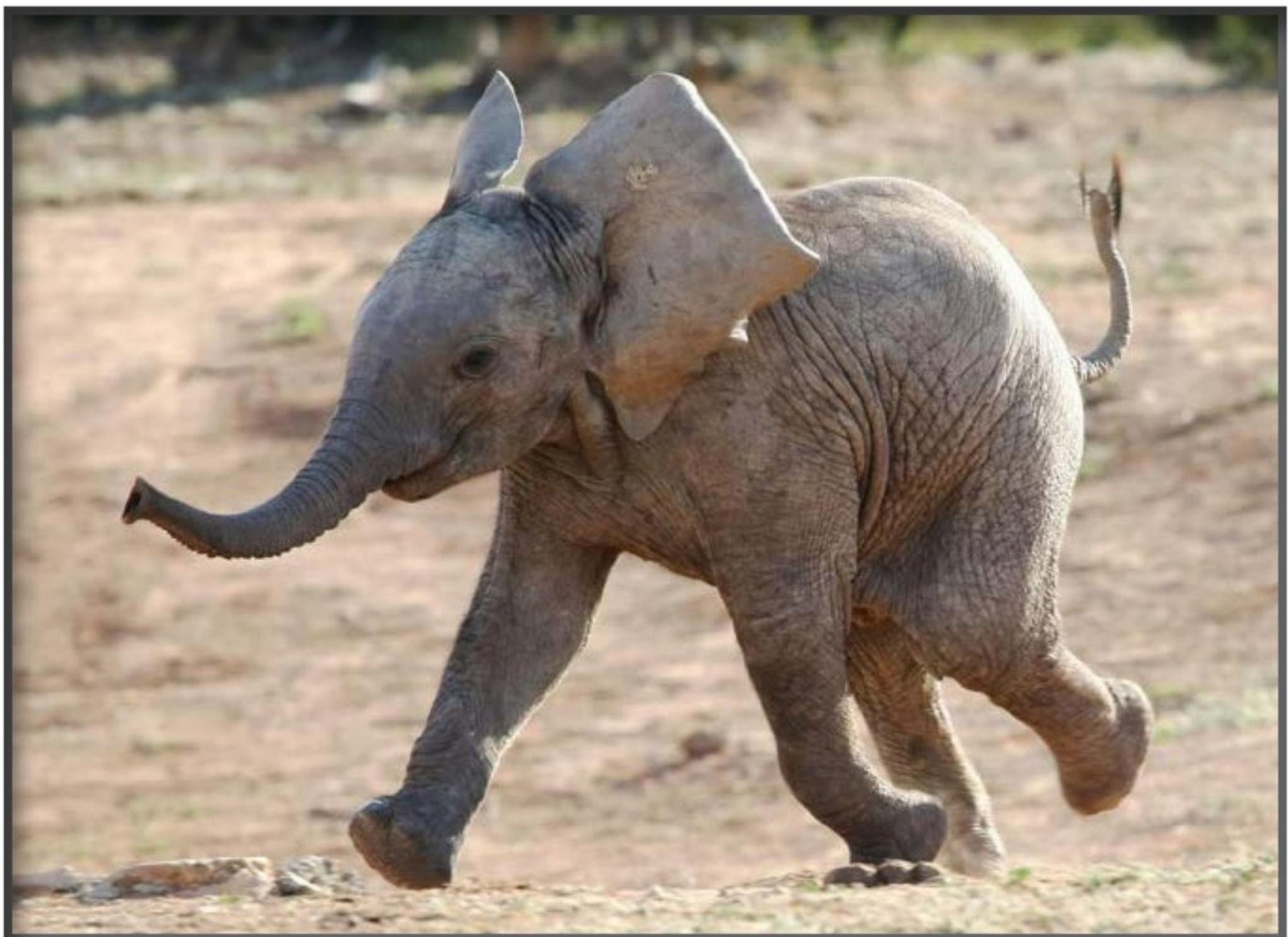


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## **Focus Question**

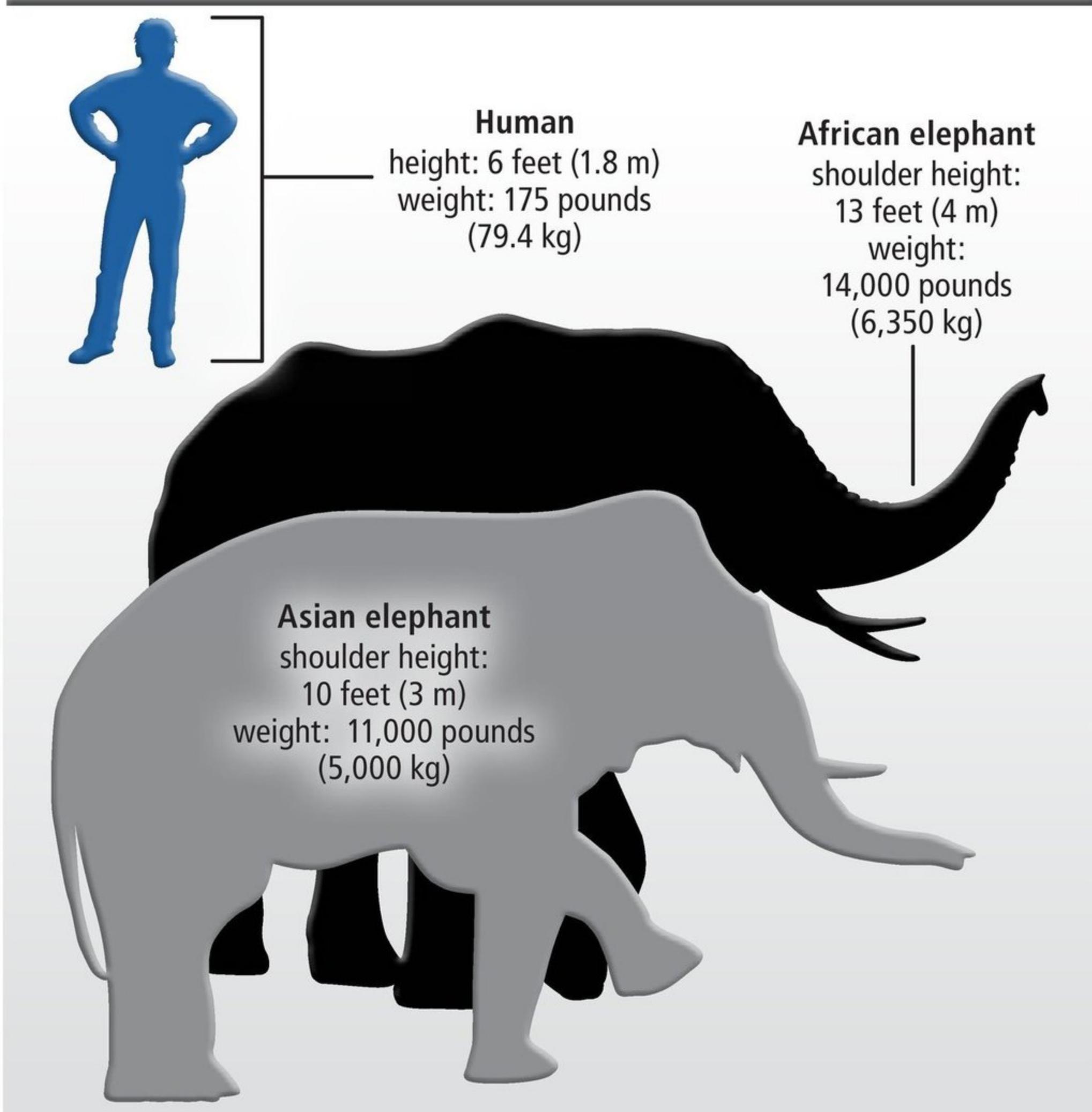
What advantages do elephants have because of their size?



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## How Big Are They?



## Elephants are Number One!

Elephants are huge!

They are much, much bigger

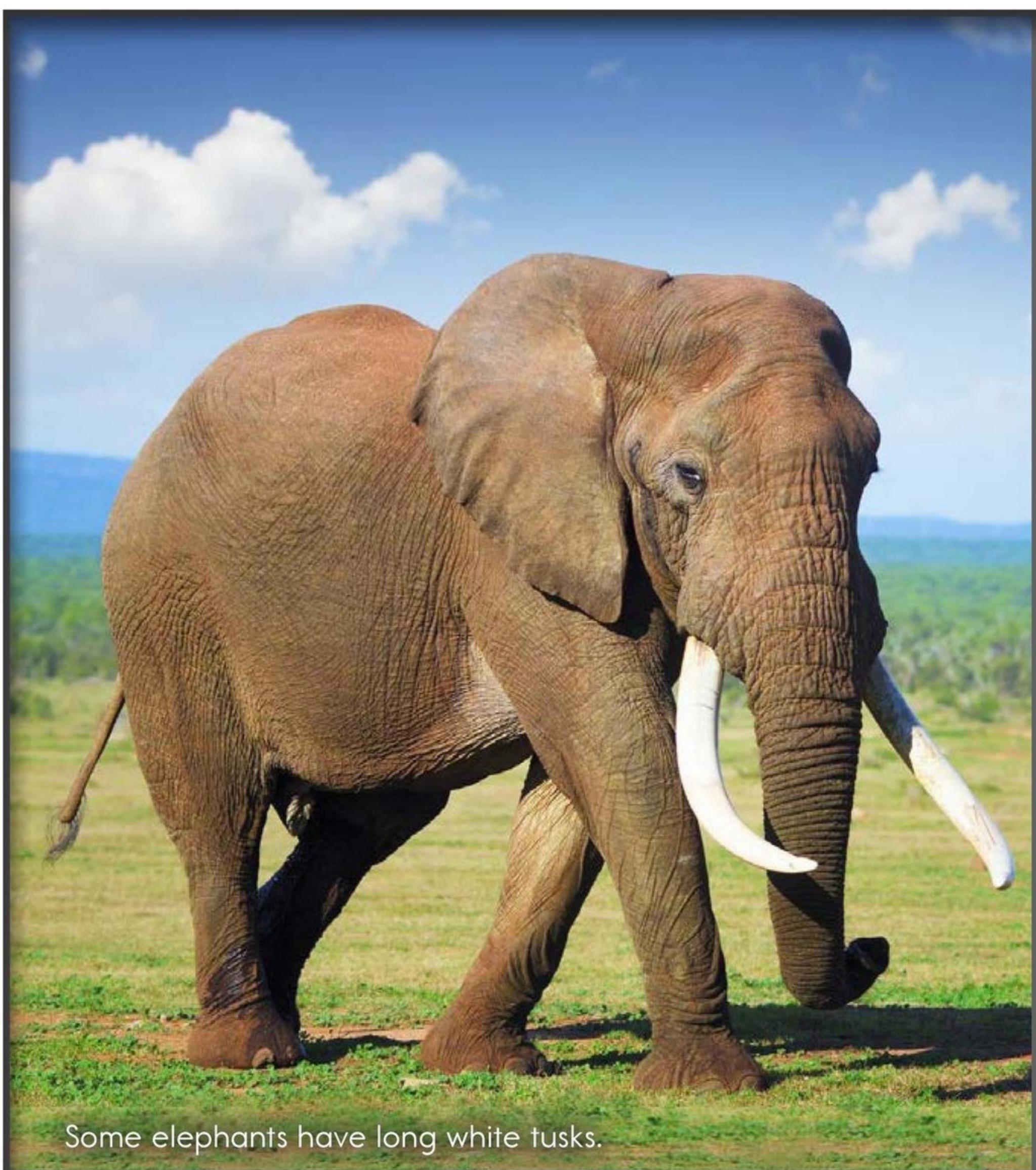
than the biggest human.

They are the biggest

land animals on Earth.

## Take a Look

Elephants are covered  
with thick gray or brown skin.  
They have long noses  
called trunks.

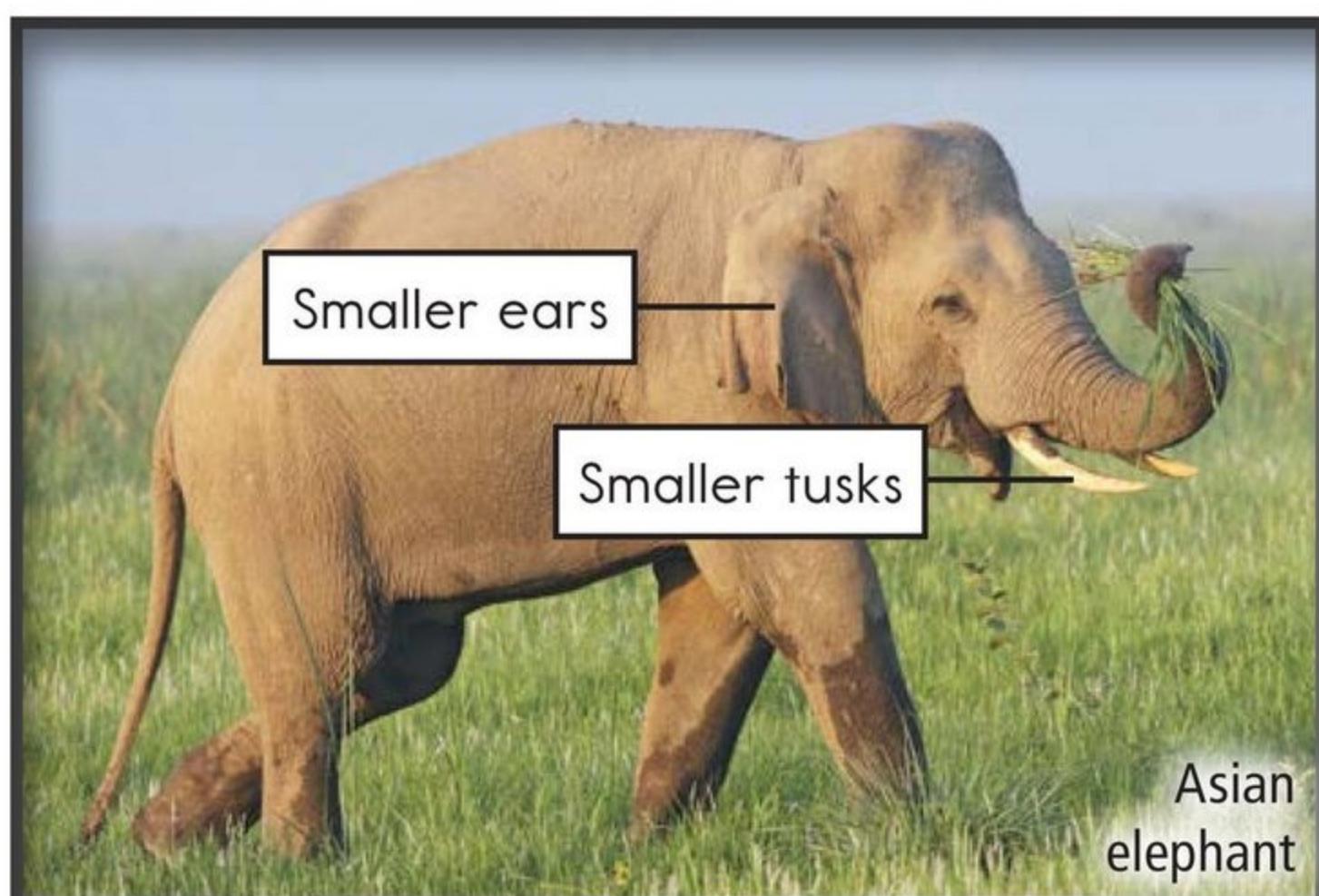
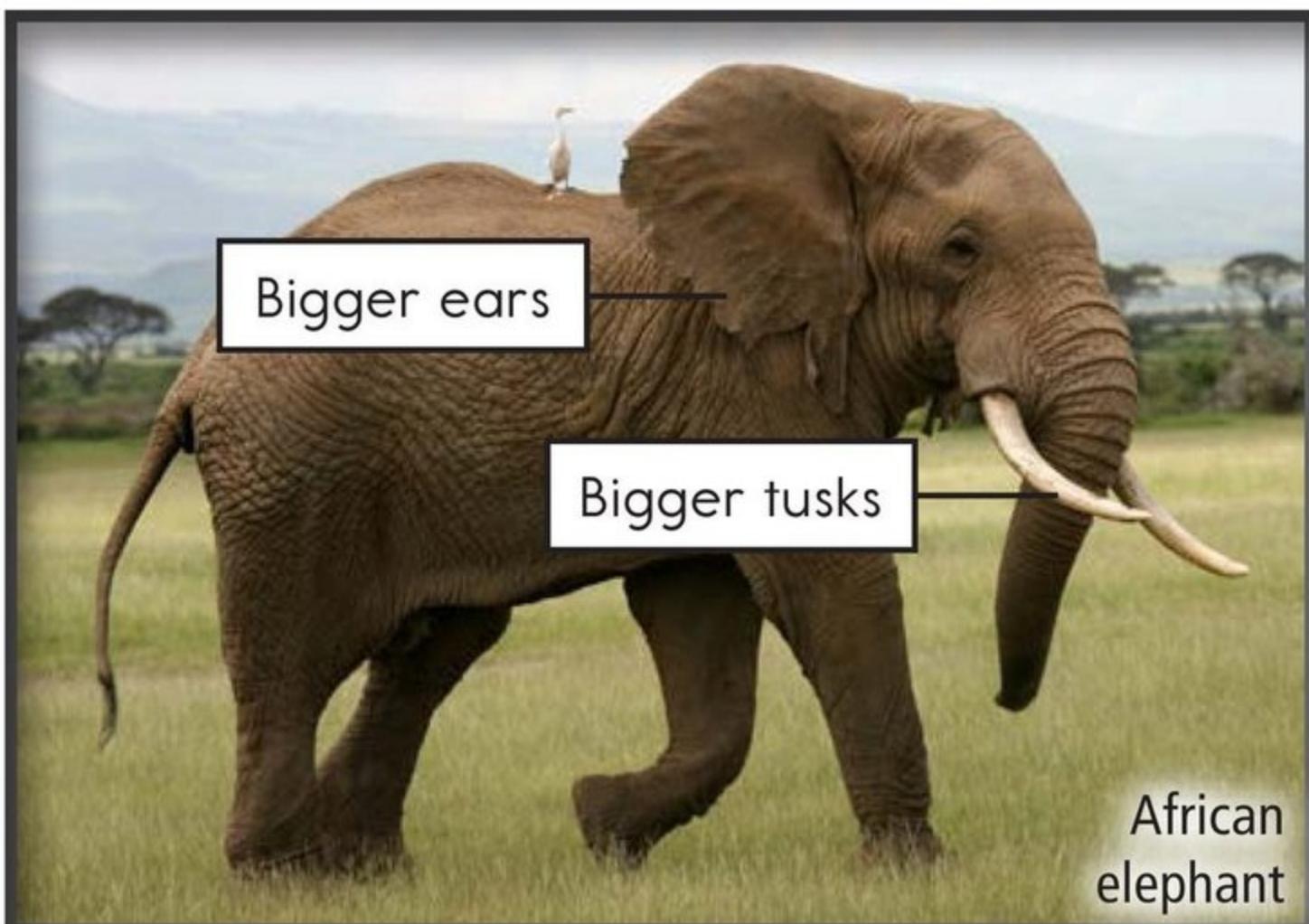


Some elephants have long white tusks.



Elephants spray water with their trunks.

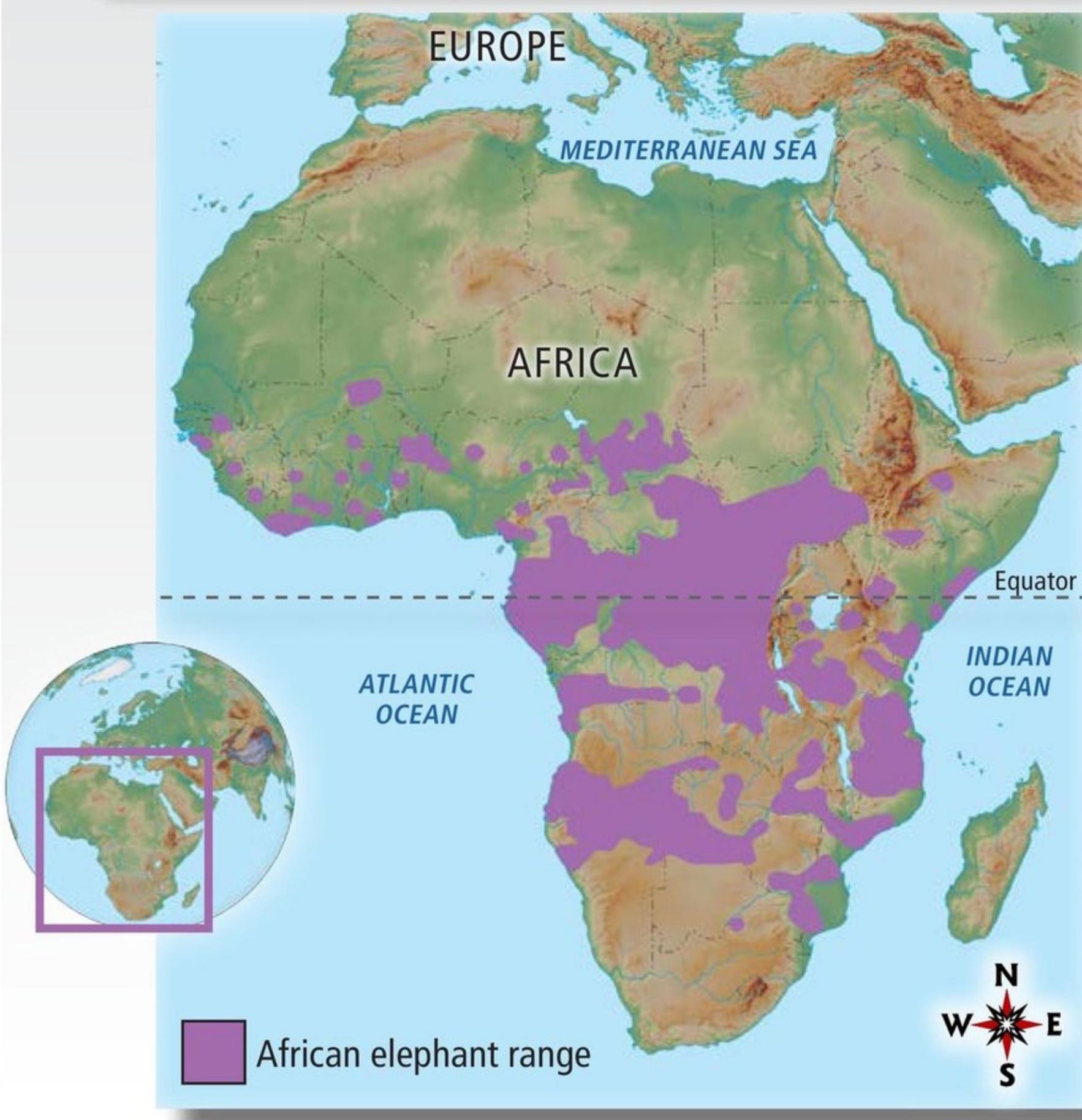
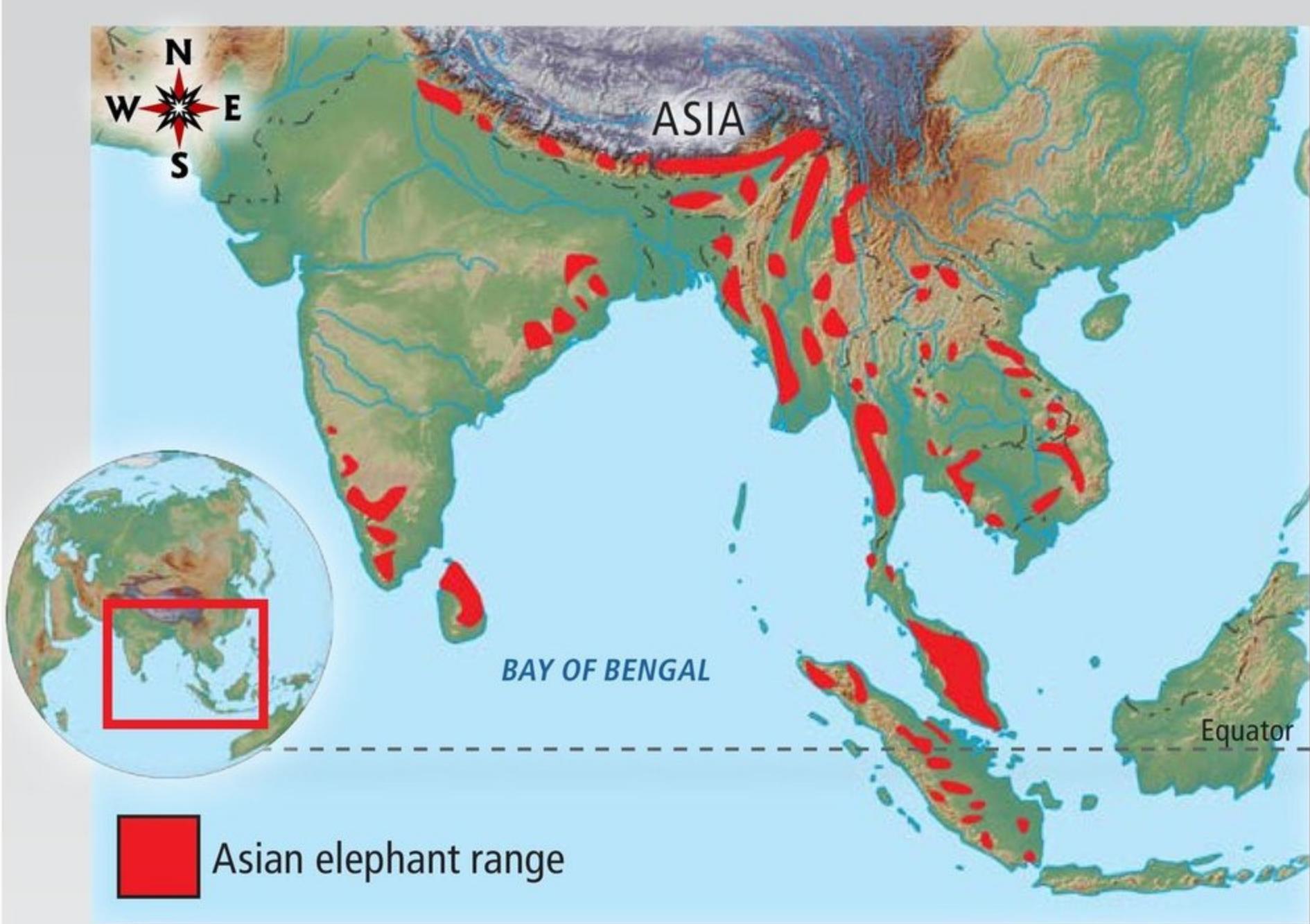
Elephants use their trunks  
to **breathe** and make noise.  
They also use their trunks  
to grab food and suck up water.



## Two Kinds of Elephants

There are African  
and Asian elephants.  
African elephants are bigger  
than Asian elephants.  
The two kinds are different  
in other ways, too.

## Where Elephants Live





Mother elephants keep their calves close to them.

## **Growing Up . . . and Up**

Baby elephants **weigh** more than  
most adult people.

The mother teaches her **calf**  
how to live in the wild.

Elephants live in groups like a family.  
Adult elephants in the group help  
keep the young ones safe.

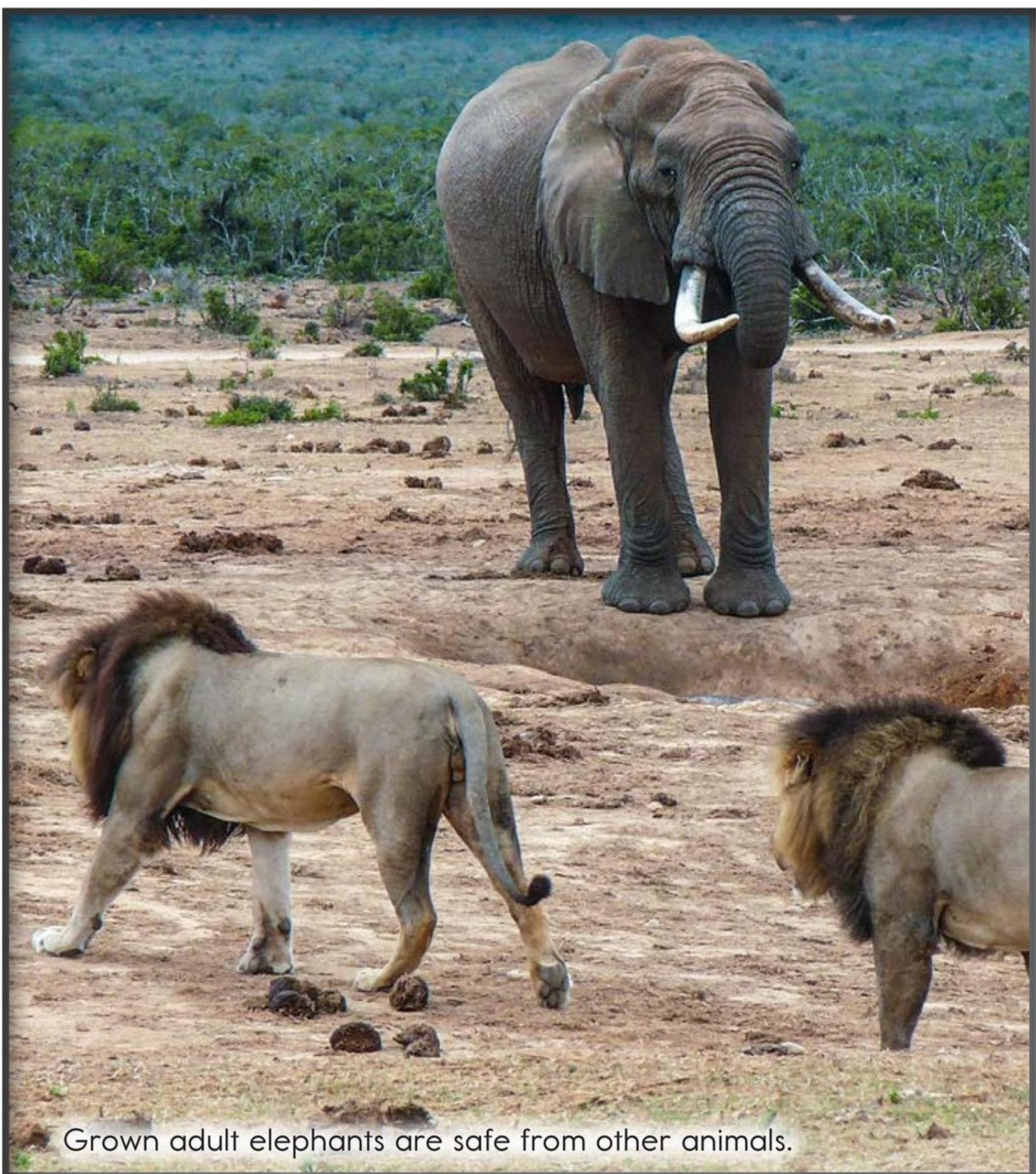


Elephants can travel a long way to find water in Africa.

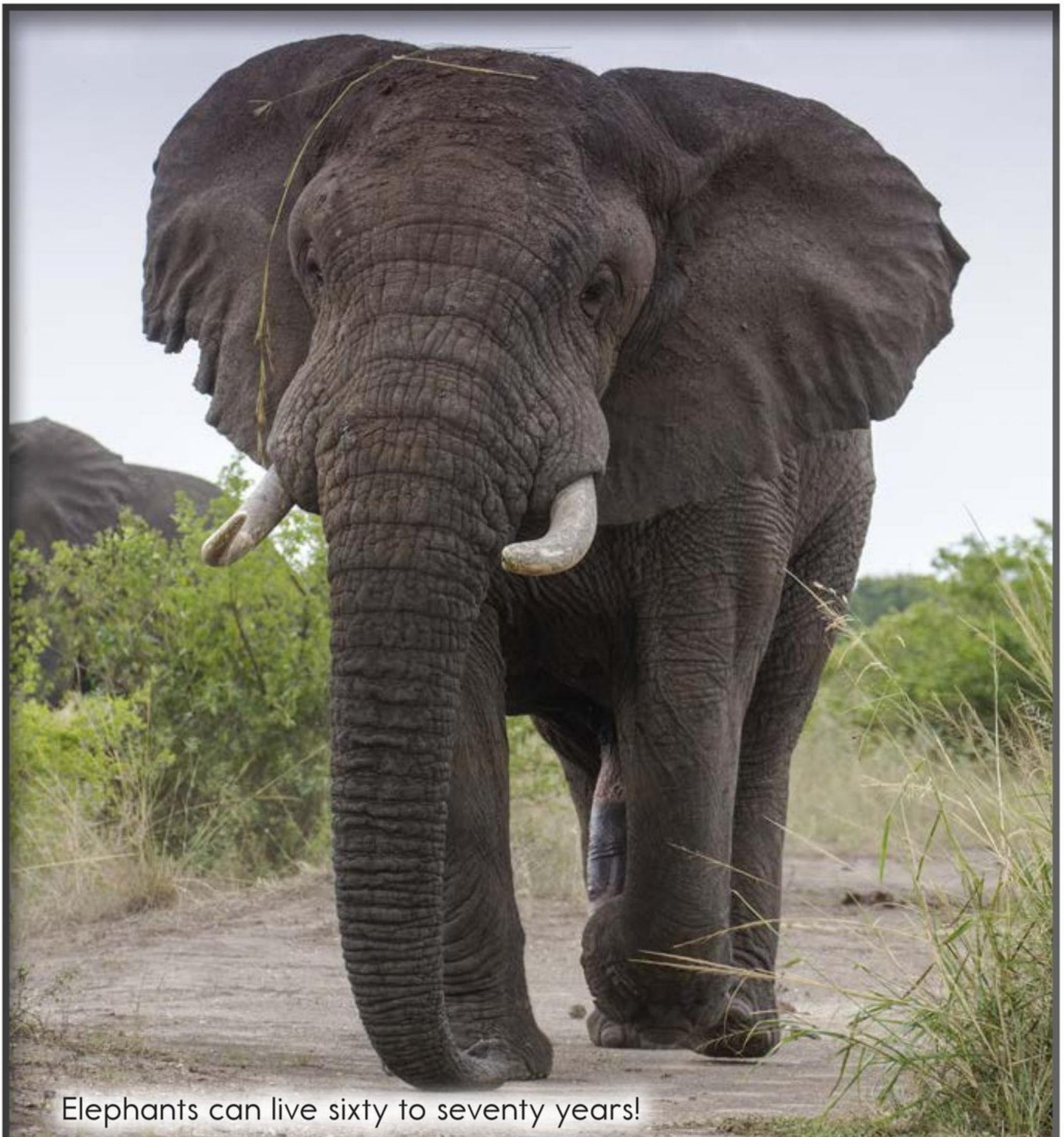
## Don't Eat Me!

Huge elephants don't have to worry about other animals.

Lions and tigers know adult elephants are too big to fight!



Grown adult elephants are safe from other animals.



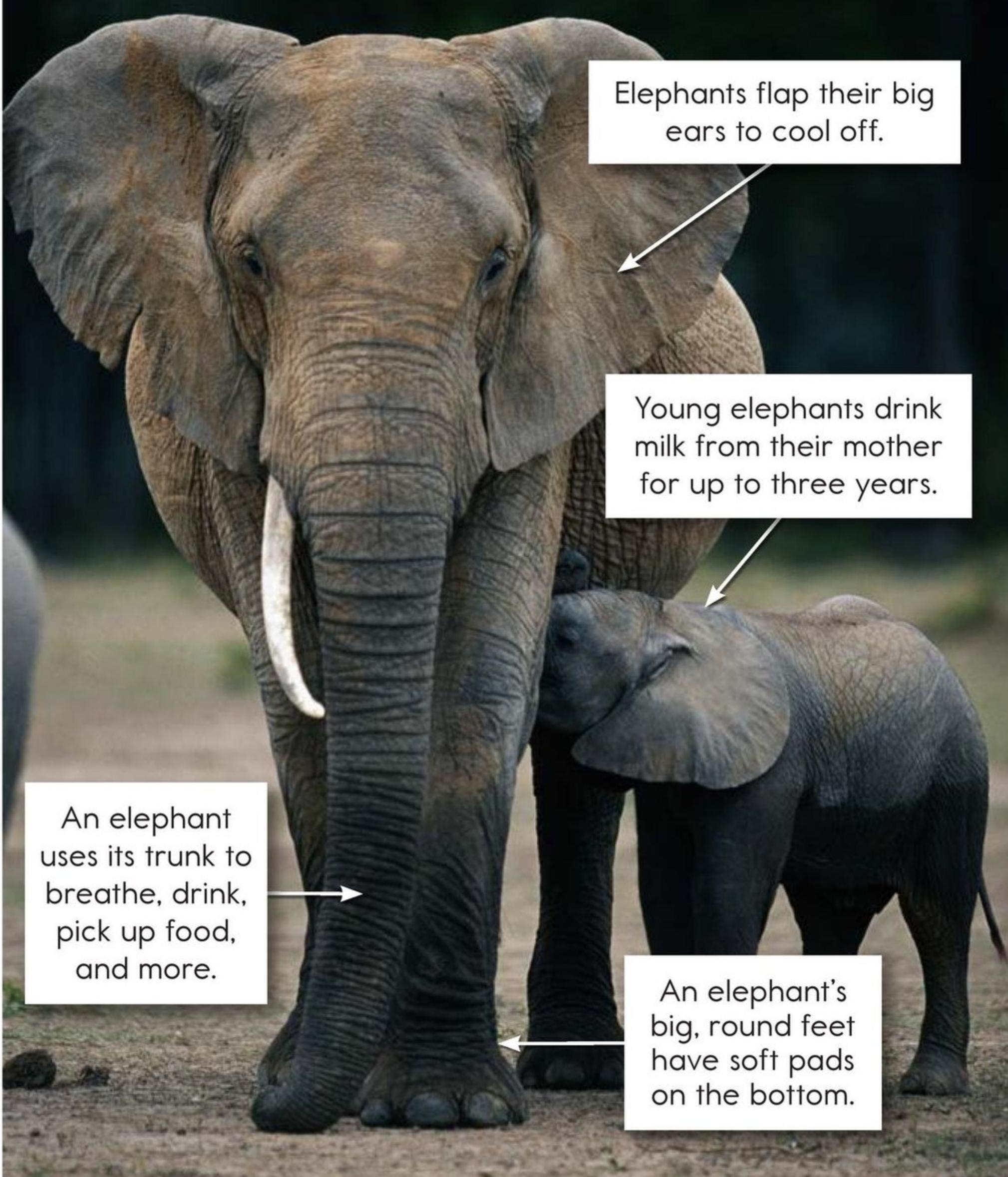
Elephants can live sixty to seventy years!

## Splitting Up

After ten to fifteen years,  
young **males** leave to live  
alone or with other males.

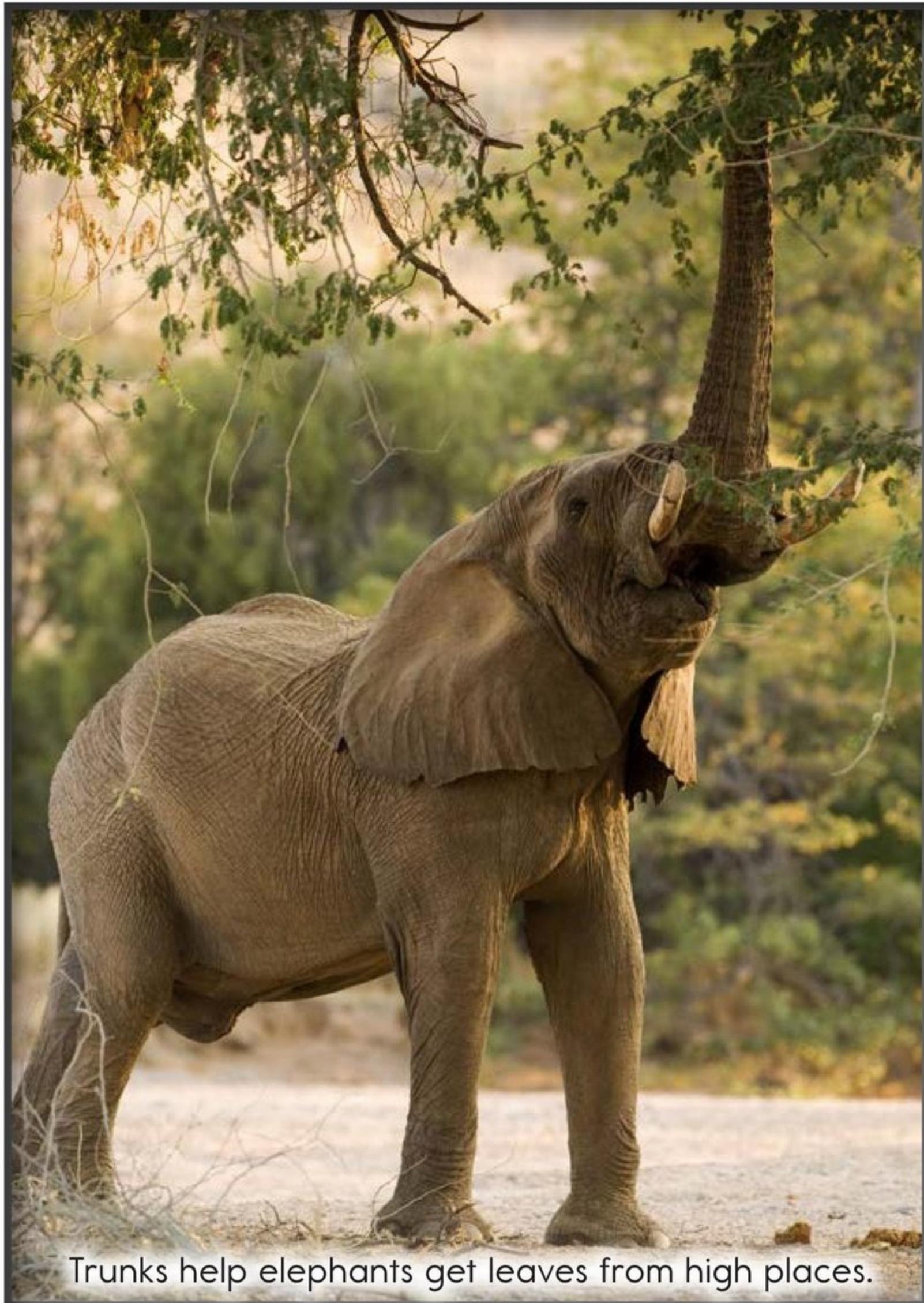
**Female** elephants stay together  
in their own group.

## What Makes an Elephant a Mammal?



### All mammals

- have a backbone
- have hair on their bodies at some time in their lives
- are warm-blooded
- produce milk to feed their babies



Trunks help elephants get leaves from high places.

## Plenty of Plants

Elephants eat a lot of grass

and leaves in one day.

It takes an adult man one hundred days to eat as much.



Elephants are big, but gentle animals.

## Asian and African Giants

Elephants are smart animals that take good care of each other. They are very special animals.

## Glossary

<b>breathe</b> (v.)	to take in and let out air through the nose or mouth (p. 6)
<b>calf</b> (n.)	a young cow, elephant, whale, or other large mammal (p. 9)
<b>female</b> (adj.)	of, relating to, or being a plant or animal that can produce young or make eggs or seeds (p. 12)
<b>males</b> (n.)	plants or animals that can fertilize a female (p. 12)
<b>trunks</b> (n.)	long noses of elephants (p. 5)
<b>weigh</b> (v.)	to have a certain heaviness or weight (p. 9)

# Words to Know

breathe

males

calf

trunks

female

weigh

Front and back cover: Young and old African elephants are walking in a line.

Title page: Elephants dust their backs so they won't get sunburn.

Page 3: This little elephant is trying out its legs. Baby elephants like to play.

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Giants of the Animal World  
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