

LEVELED BOOK • H

# Elephants:

## Giant Mammals

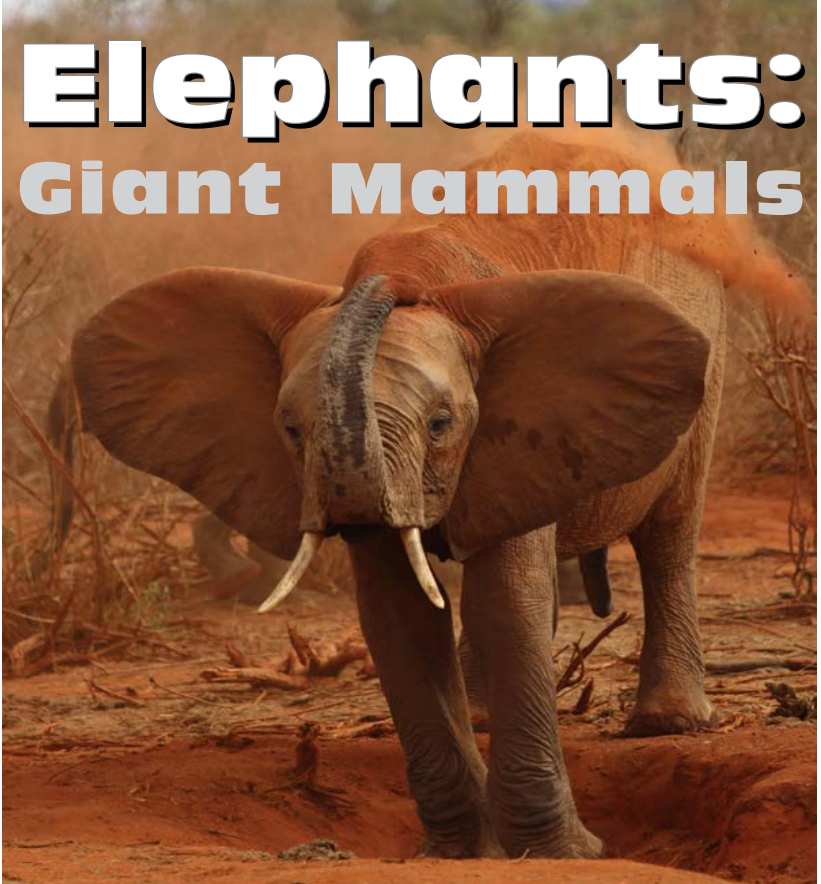


Written by Jane Ling

[www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)



# Elephants: Giant Mammals



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## Focus Question

What advantages do elephants have because of their size?





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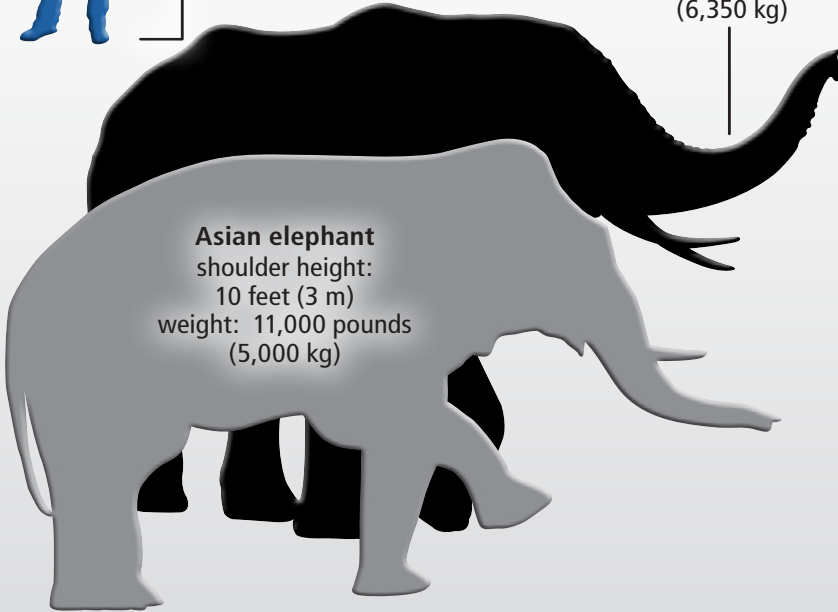
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## How Big Are They?



**Human**  
height: 6 feet (1.8 m)  
weight: 175 pounds  
(79.4 kg)

**African elephant**  
shoulder height:  
13 feet (4 m)  
weight:  
14,000 pounds  
(6,350 kg)



**Asian elephant**  
shoulder height:  
10 feet (3 m)  
weight: 11,000 pounds  
(5,000 kg)

## Elephants are Number One!

Elephants are huge!

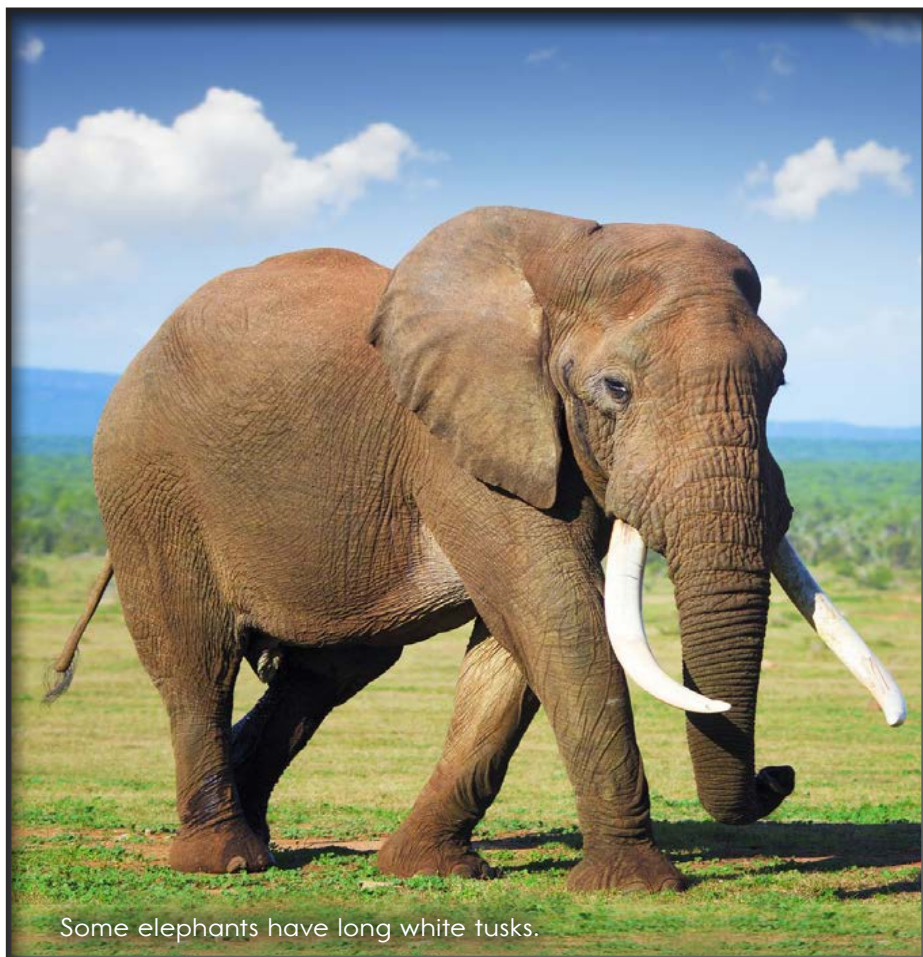
They are much, much bigger  
than the biggest human.

They are the biggest  
land animals on Earth.

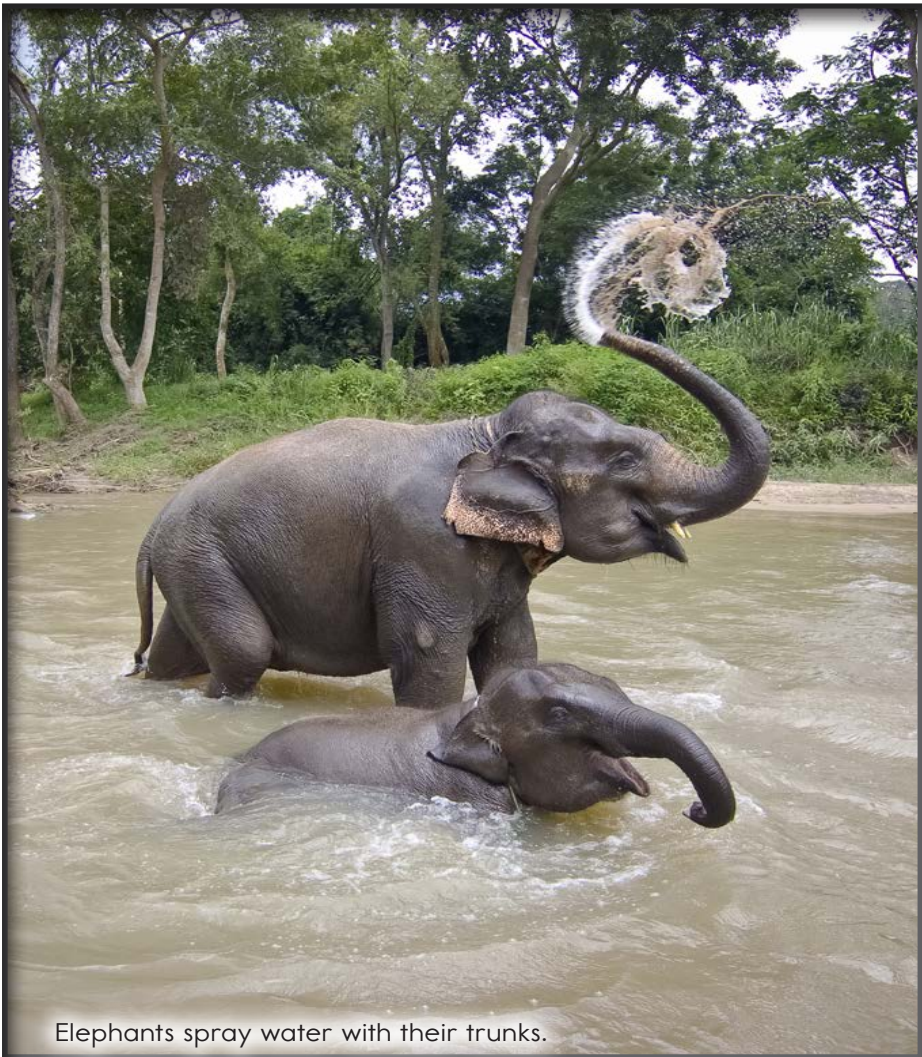


## Take a Look

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



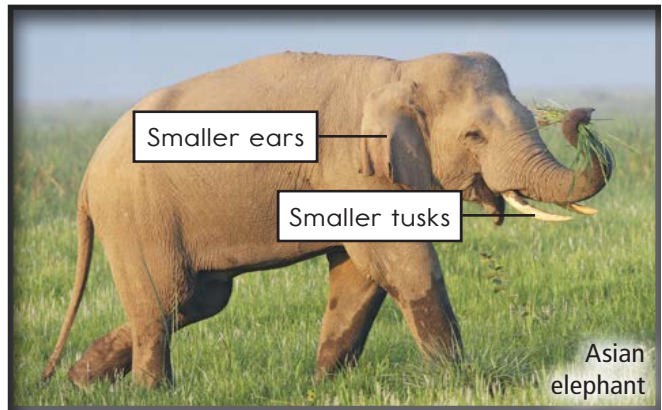
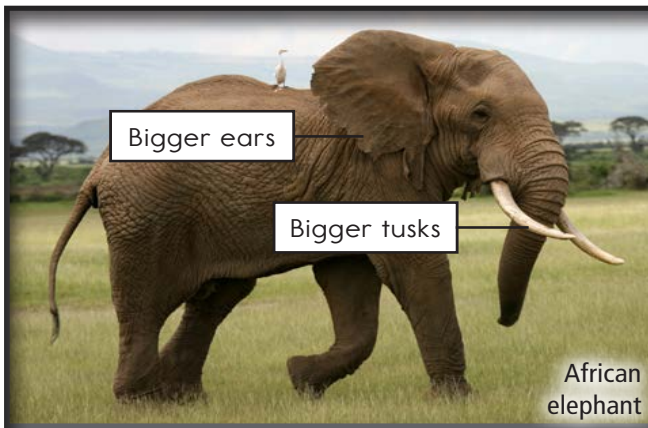
Some elephants have long white tusks.



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.





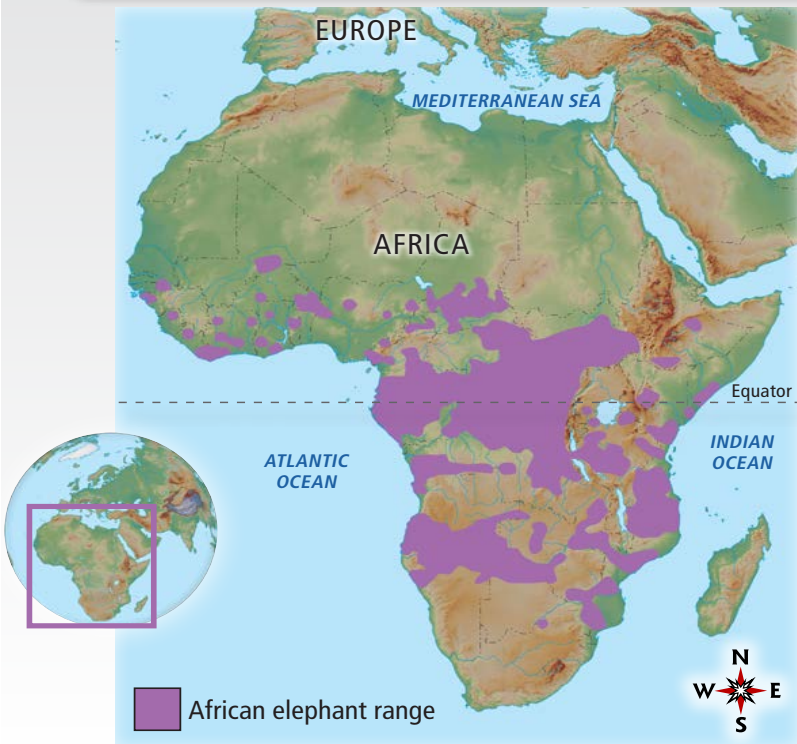
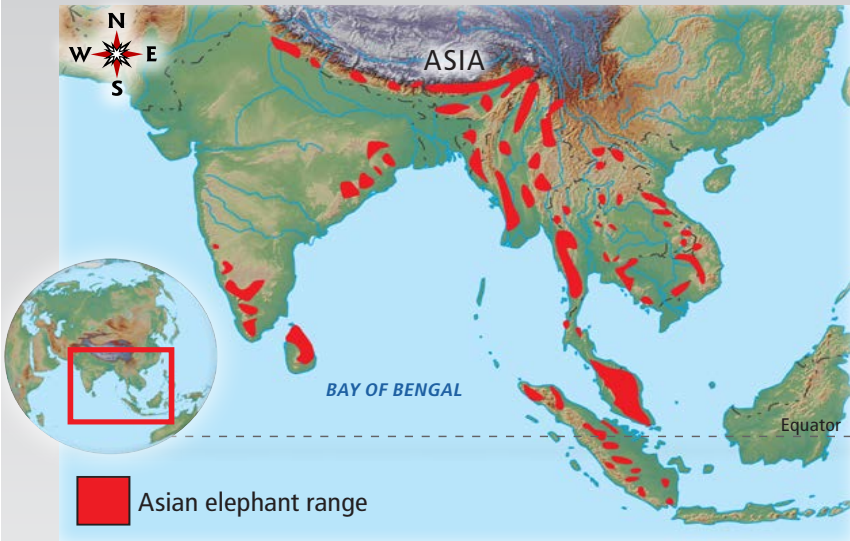
## Two Kinds of Elephants

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.

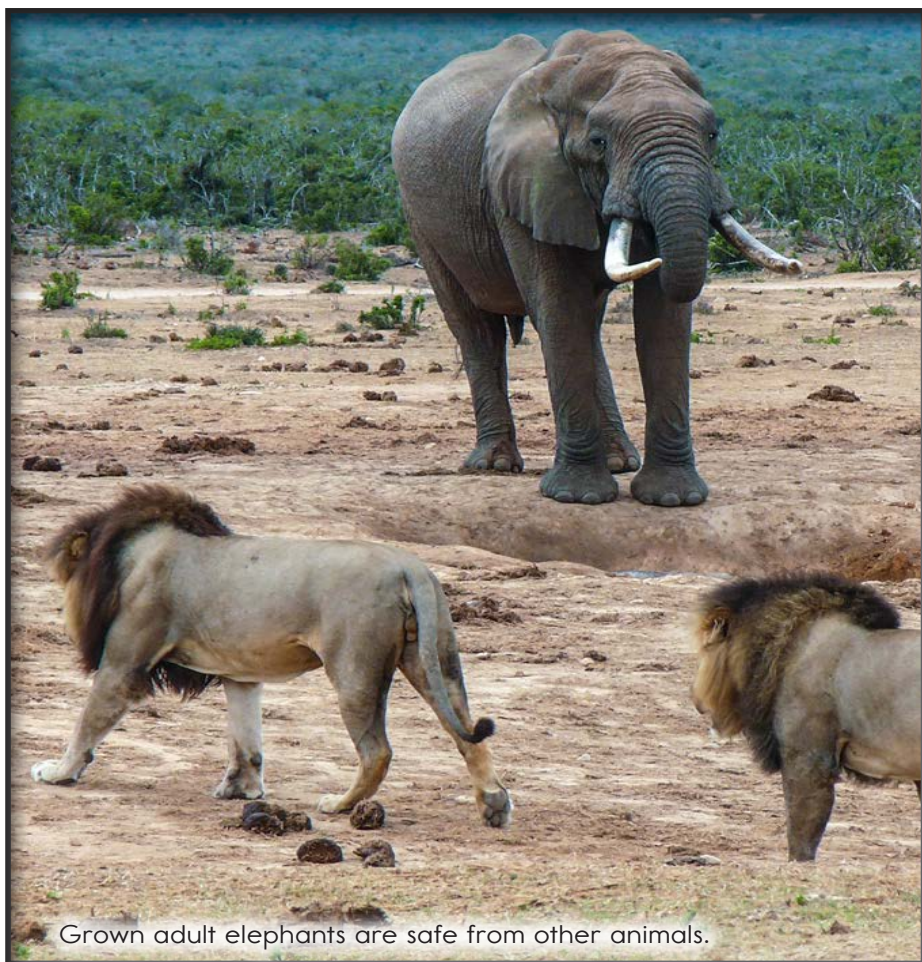


Elephants can travel a long way to find water in Africa.

## 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.



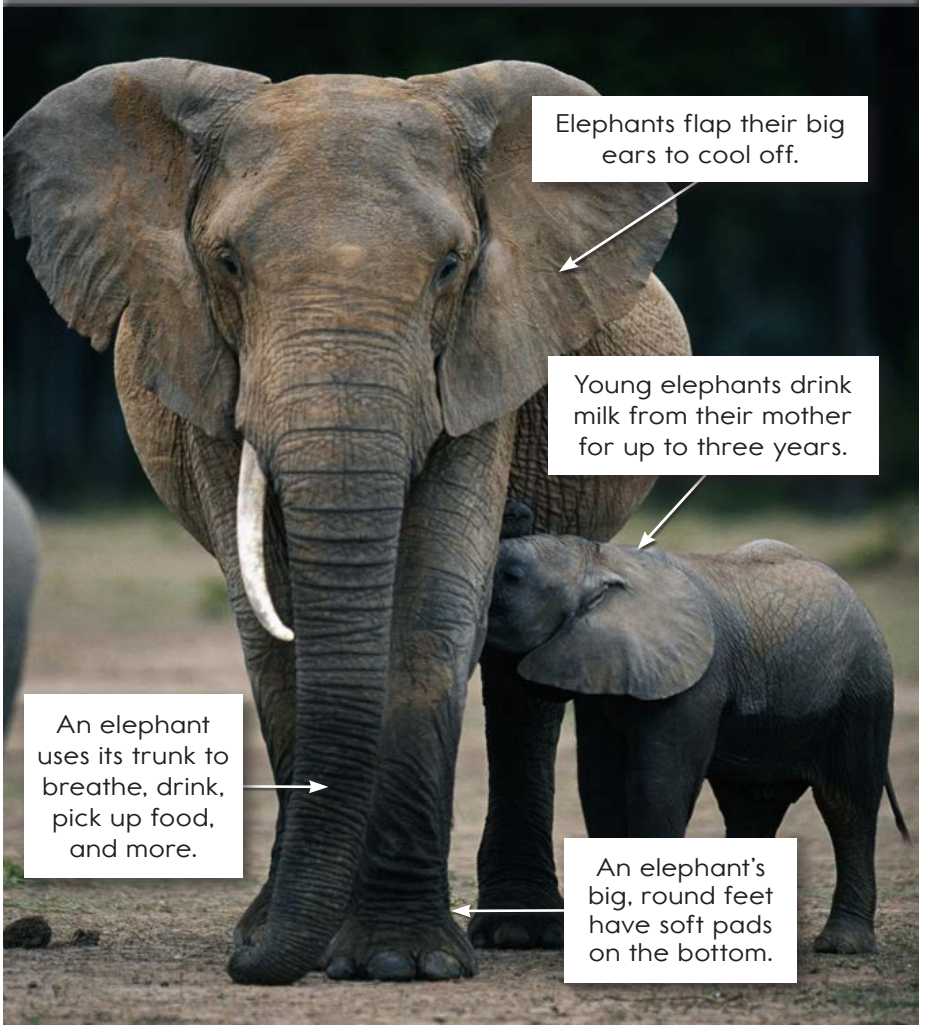


## Splitting Up

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.





## **Asian and African Giants**

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

## Glossary

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



# Words to Know

breathe

calf

female

males

trunks

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  
Level H Leveled Book  
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## Correlation

LEVEL H	
Fountas & Pinnell	H
Reading Recovery	13-14
DRA	14

A background image showing a herd of elephants in a savanna. The elephants are of various sizes, and their grey, wrinkled skin is prominent. The background is a soft-focus green landscape.

# Elephants: Giant Mammals

*A Reading A-Z Level H Leveled Book*  
*Word Count: 198*

## Connections

### Writing

Write a newspaper article for kids explaining three or more interesting facts about elephants.

### Science

Research more about the differences between African and Asian elephants. Write a report about what you learned, listing five ways they are different.

The logo for Reading A-Z, featuring the words "Reading A-Z" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. Above the letter "A" is a small red sun icon with rays.

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