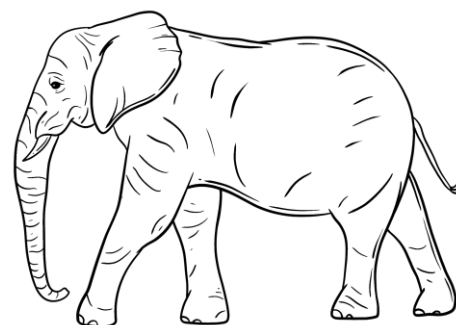


Africa's Endangered Elephants

Level 4

The African elephant is the largest land animal in the world. Adult males can weigh over six tonnes (that's about three times as heavy as a rhino!). It is thought that the population of African elephants once numbered nearly 5 million. Today that number is closer to four hundred thousand. The actions of humans are to blame for this sharp decline in numbers.

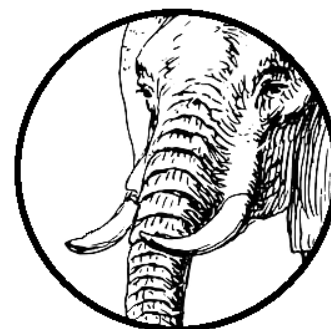


Shrinking Habitat

As the human population of Africa grows, so too does the demand for farmland. Forests and grasslands are destroyed to meet this demand. Adult elephants eat an average of 150kg of vegetation daily, and therefore they need a large amount of habitat. With less space to roam, elephants come into contact with humans more frequently. Farmlands are often disturbed by wandering elephants, leading to conflict between humans and elephants. Logging and mining industries are also responsible for the declining numbers of elephants. Both practices destroy elephants' natural habitat, making it more and more difficult for these animals to survive.

Poaching

Another serious problem for the African elephant population is poaching. Although African elephants are a protected species, meaning it is illegal to kill African elephants, people make a lot of money from hunting them. These people are called poachers. Poachers work quickly, quietly and often in the dark of night. The main reason poachers kill elephants is for their tusks. The ivory from the tusks is carved into jewellery and ornaments. African elephants are also targeted for their skin and meat.



Questions

Africa's Endangered Elephants – Level 4

1. Approximately, what is the population of African elephants? _____

2. List two practices responsible for destroying the habitat of elephants.

3. Which word in the final paragraph means 'selected'? _____

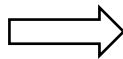
4. List three reasons poachers hunt elephants.

5. According to the text, what causes conflict between elephants and humans?

6. Why are humans coming into contact with elephants more frequently?

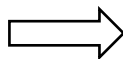
7. Find and record 3 cause and effect relationships identified in the text.

Cause



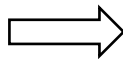
Effect

Cause



Effect

Cause



Effect



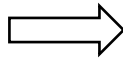
Answers

1. Approximately, what is the population of African elephants? **400,000**
2. List two practices responsible for destroying the habitat of elephants.
Logging and mining both destroy the habitat of elephants.
3. Which word in the final paragraph means 'selected'? **Targeted.**
4. List three reasons poachers hunt elephants.
Poaches hunt elephants for their tusks, their skin and their meat.
5. According to the text, what causes conflict between elephants and humans?
Wandering elephants damage farmers crops and land.
6. Why are humans coming into contact with elephants more frequently?
Elephants have less space to roam because their habitat is being destroyed by humans.
7. Find and record 3 cause and effect relationships identified in the text.

Cause

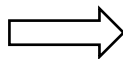
Effect

Poaching, logging.



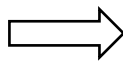
Population of elephants decreasing.

Elephants eat a lot of vegetation.



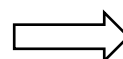
Elephants need a large space to roam.

Money can be made from ivory, skin and meat.



Poachers kill elephants.

Elephant population has decreased



They are now a protected species.

