

Some Facts About Elephants (Part 1)

(Story words: weigh, pounds, food, calf)

The biggest mammal is the blue whale. Blue whales can weigh as much as 400,000 pounds. Many houses weigh less than that!

African elephants are the biggest animals that live on land, and they weigh between 5,000-14,000 pounds. While small compared with whales, they are not light on their feet. Elephants cannot jump the way we can, not just because of how big they are, but because their bones are not shaped to have the “spring” required for jumping.

Elephants are not sluggish and spend most of their time on the move. In fact, in the wild, elephants sleep only two hours a day, and sometimes sleep standing up.

Elephants eat a plant-based diet and need to consume about 300 pounds of food every day.

They spend about 80% of their day looking for food and water and may travel 50 miles in a day. An elephant calf will walk behind its mother, holding onto its mother's tail with its trunk.