

# African Animals

Much of the continent of Africa is a **savanna**. A savanna is an open grassland with few trees. Africa's savanna is home to many different types of animals.



World Almanac for Kids

*Lions are big cats.*

The savanna is a **habitat**. A habitat is a place where an animal lives. Here are some animals that live in the African savanna.

## Lion

Lions are big cats with gold-colored fur. Lions are **carnivores** (KAR-neh-vawrz). Carnivores are meat eaters. Lions live together in a group called a **pride**.

## Elephant

Elephants are animals with trunks and tusks. Elephants are **herbivores** (ER-beh-vawrz). Herbivores are plant eaters. Elephants live together in a group called a **herd**.

## Giraffe

Giraffes are the tallest animals in the world. They are plant eaters. Their height helps them reach leaves on tall trees. Giraffes live in a herd of about 10 animals.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

*Giraffes are the tallest animals in the world.*

## Warthog

Warthogs are a type of wild hog. Warthogs are **omnivores** (AHM-neh-vawrz). Omnivores eat both plants and meat. Female and baby warthogs live in a small group called a **sounder**. Males live alone.

## Hippopotamus

Hippopotamuses are animals that live partly on land and partly in water. They are herbivores that eat mainly grasses. Hippos live in a herd of up to 15 members.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Answer the following four questions based on the information in the passage.

1. Describe the African savanna.

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

2. How are elephants and giraffes similar?

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3. According to the article, what is a warthog? Describe one key characteristic of a warthog.

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4. What is this passage mostly about?

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

*At mealtimes, giraffes eat leaves from tall trees because they have long necks and can reach high places.*

What? giraffes

5. (do) What?

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6. When?

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\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Many animals live in groups or herds for protection, \_\_\_\_\_ they can still be attacked by lions and other meat-eating animals.

- A but
- B because
- C so

**Directions:** Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **habitat** (hab · i · tat): an animal's home in nature.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **habitat**.
- a. The girl found the rabbit's hole, which is his habitat in the forest.
  - b. By taking care of the environment, animals' habitats can be saved.
  - c. Some habitats such as the rainforest are protected so that people cannot do further damage.
  - d. At the zoo, students learned that the natural habitat of the lion is the African savanna.
  - e. Students learned that alligators like to live in a warm and wet habitat.
10. Which image does NOT show an animal in its habitat?

