

Polar Bear and Elephant Fact Cards

Polar Bear Facts

Where do they live?

In the Arctic. Canada, Greenland, Northern Norway, Russia.

How much do they weigh?

Females can weigh up to 250 kgs. Males up to 700 kgs. The average weight is around 450 kgs for a male.

How high are they?

The shoulder height of a polar bear is between 122-160 cms. The average is 133 cms.

What do they eat?

Seals and whale carcasses. When food is scarce they will eat reindeer, shellfish, berries and even human rubbish when they can find it. They are mainly carnivores. Polar bears need to eat at least 2 kgs of fat every day.

Speed

Swimming 10kph. Walking 5.6kph. Running up to 40 kph for short distances.

Lifespan

20-30 years.

Number of young

1 to 4, but often twins.

Unusual fact

Inuits call polar bears "nanuk" because they believe they are worthy of respect.



Elephant Facts

Where do they live?

African elephants live in over 35 African countries south of the Sahara desert. Asian elephants live in India, Sri Lanka, China and parts of South East Asia.

How much do they weigh?

African females can weigh around 3,600 kgs and the males 6,800 kgs. Asian females weigh about 2,700 kgs and the males 4,900 kgs.

How high are they?

African males reach around 4 metres high and the Asian males 3 metres high.

What do they eat?

Grass, leaves, flowers, fruits, bananas, bushes. Both African and Asian elephants are herbivores. They eat up to 300 kgs a day and can drink between 100 to 250 litres of water a day.

Speed

Swimming: very slowly. Walking and running: Between 19 and 32 kph.

Lifespan

Up to and beyond 70 years.

Number of young

Up to 6 during an elephant's life. They usually have one at a time and very rarely two.

Unusual fact

Asian elephants are smaller than the African variety. They have smaller ears and only the males have tusks.

