

African Elephant Crossing and African Savanna Scavenger Hunt Answers:

Grades 9-12

1. Elephants use their trunk to smell, touch, and facilitate taste by placing food and objects in the mouth. Elephants also use their trunk to communicate, make vocalizations, and touch one another.
2. The AEC exhibit is designed to keep the elephants moving. The crossing promotes movement from one location to another. The elevated hay bags make the elephants work for their food. Inside the AEC building, signage explain the daily routine of the elephants including the numerous health checks and observations by keepers to ensure elephant health. Elevated hay bags, toys, and barrels keep the elephants mentally and physically stimulated.
3. Habitat loss, poaching and hunting, and human conflict are the major threats to African elephants.
4. Human-lion conflict is common in Africa as lions and human share the same spaces; lions commonly attack livestock and sometimes even humans themselves. Humans often retaliate by killing lions. Lions and humans also compete for the same resources like food.
5. Lion prides often have one alpha male, a number of related females, and cubs. Males protect the pride from other lions. Females hunt for the pride. Females also work together to raise the cubs. Male cubs are often driven out by the alpha male when they mature. Males have large, often darkly colored manes which make them easy to spot by prey. Females are more camouflaged, so they are more adept at sneaking up on prey, which is why they are the hunters. A male's thick mane may also protect his throat when fighting another male for control of his pride. The mane also makes him appear larger and more intimidating to other males.
6. Zebra stripes, giraffe patterns, and human fingerprints are all unique identifiers; no two are the same.
7. Ostriches have long, muscular legs that are well adapted for running. Only two toes on each foot allow for greater speed. Their large wings help the balance when running.
8. Giraffe walk forward in the following pattern: left front and left rear, right front and right rear. Both legs on the same side move together, this is known as a pacing gait. When galloping, both back legs swing forward at the same time around the front legs, then the front legs swing forward together.
9. Rhinoceros, like most four-legged animals, walk forward in the following pattern: left front and right rear, then right front and left rear.
10. Elephant trunks, giraffe tongues, and rhinoceros' lips are all prehensile appendages. These body parts are flexible and allow these animals to explore and grasp objects.