

I remember...
when grandma
and I went to
the lake!

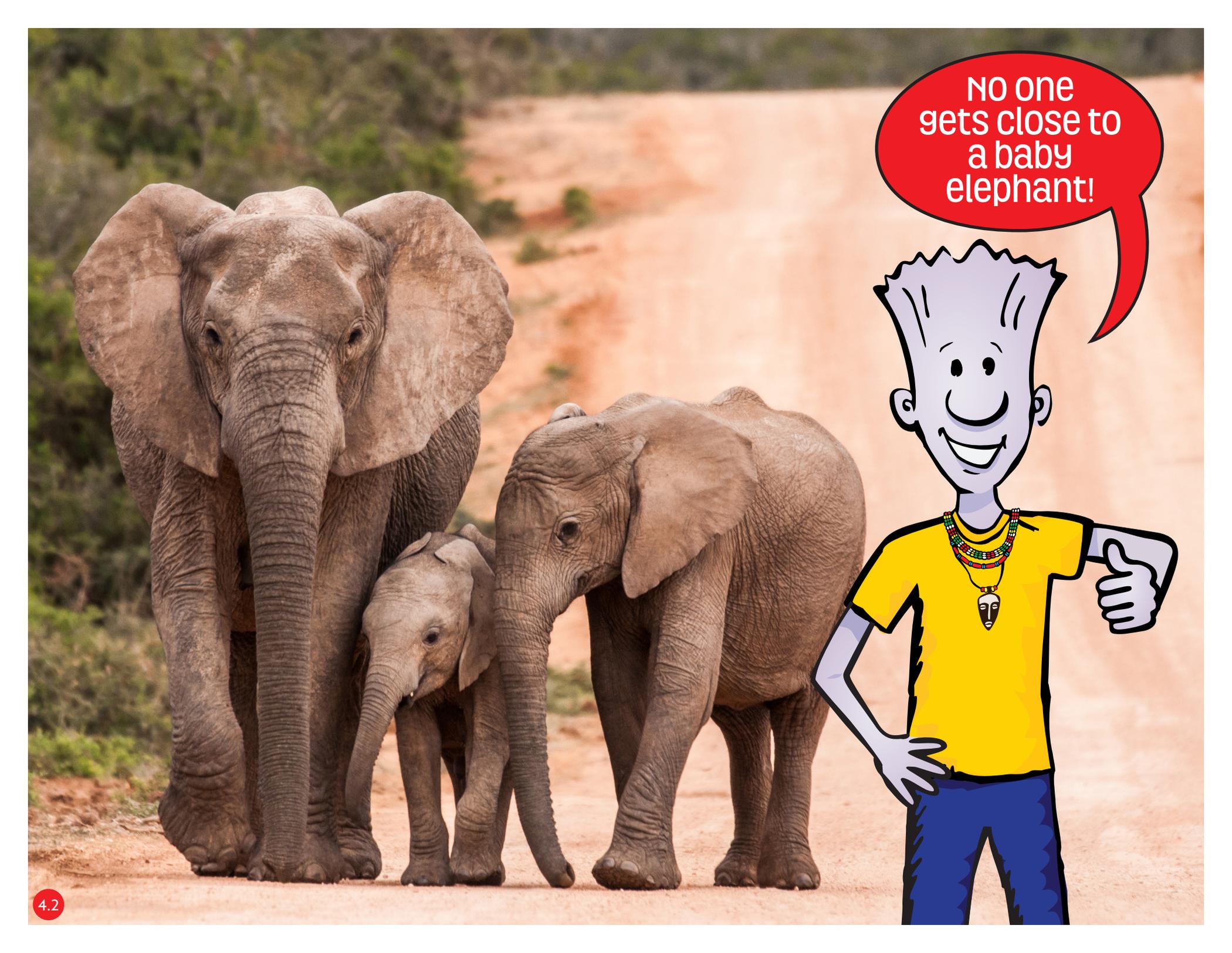
I remember...
when uncle grey
pushed over a
tree!

I remember...
when I went
swimming for the
first time!

Elephants
have a better
memory
than me!

NED'S
KINDNESS
ADVENTURE

- Elephants are smart and have great memories.
- Elephants do not have great eyesight so they use their trunks to “smell” their friends and their enemies. Every person and animal has a unique smell and the elephant remembers them all!
- Elephants will run their trunk up and down the face of a person who has been a caregiver or a friend. It’s similar to your grandmother who may look you over from head to toe when she hasn’t seen you for a while.
- Orphaned elephants that have been cared for by people, will remember the “smell” of their human friends for years.
- Orphaned elephants can also return to their “herd” years later and they will remember the unique smells of their herd-mates
- Elephants use their memories to keep friends forever, even if they go years without seeing someone.
- Grown-up orphaned elephants that have returned to the wild will remember the place where humans helped care for them. They will return for yearly visits with lots of trumpeting and sniffing.
- Grown-up orphans have even brought back their new babies to show and off to their former caregivers.
- For survival, elephants must remember the locations of the best watering holes.
- They also remember their migration route from year to year.
- When it starts raining, they know to start migrating. They must take advantage of watering holes that fill up during the rains but dry out very quickly.
- When traveling by areas where an elephant died in the past, they often stop in respect and remember their loved ones.



No one
gets close to
a baby
elephant!

4.2 NED'S ELEPHANT FACTS Family matters

- Elephants are very social animals, both within their own herd and with other herds.
- Elephants are not territorial – they will cross paths and mingle many times with other herds, but ultimately, they return to their own family herd.
- Elephants have a very tight-knit family unit made up of female elephants and all the young elephants. The males tend to travel alone.
- A new baby in the herd is something to celebrate.
- All the female elephants in the herd work together to raise a baby. It's called "mothers," because every female in the herd will offer care and comfort. Even little orphaned female elephants try to mother those babies younger than they are.
- Young elephants learn as they watch and mimic what other elephants are doing.
- The herd is very protective of the babies. If danger approaches, they will circle around that baby. Lions won't try to kill a full-grown elephant, because they would lose! But the baby is an easy target, so the herd protects the babies.
- An aggressive elephant will extend their ears to make itself look twice as big. It will stomp its feet, too. This scares threatening animals and people away.
- If a young elephant is in trouble – everyone in the herd will try to help. Babies often fall into water wells or get stuck in deep mud, but everyone comes to the rescue.

A photograph of a herd of elephants in a savanna setting. In the foreground, a cartoon character with spiky hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt and blue pants, stands with one hand on his hip and the other pointing upwards. A red speech bubble is positioned above him, containing the text. The background shows several elephants, including a young calf, in a natural, dusty environment.

Even giant
animals like
elephants need
protection

Dangers

- Baby elephants are in danger from the moment they are born.
- They must walk within 1 hour of birth. This allows them to join their herd and keep migrating in search of food and water. Think about trying to make a baby girl walk on wobbly legs right after she was born!
- The landscape can be very treacherous. During rainy season, baby elephants must overcome many obstacles like slippery mud, rugged land, fast moving rivers, and steep banks.
- Humans and elephants often have to share the water. Humans build wells which are sometimes just big holes in the ground. These holes can be very dangerous for elephants, especially babies. Baby elephants may lose their balance, fall or get stuck in the hole.
- The herd will only leave behind an elephant if it's dying or if they can't rescue it. Sometimes the leader must choose to move on in search of water. It is a tough decision but they will leave a baby and save the rest of the herd if necessary.
- Not all people are kind to elephants. Illegal poachers will try to kill the grown elephants for their beautiful ivory tusks. Sometimes elephants are badly hurt from traps, snares and other human interferences.
- When a mama of a young baby dies, the baby struggles. The other elephants want to help but only its mamma can provide milk for that baby until it is 4 years old. If the baby is milk-dependent, there is no solution and little chance of survival for the baby elephant.

Rescue

- Organizations like David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust are on the lookout for elephants in trouble. They will do everything they can to provide medical assistance and even transport abandoned baby elephants to restore them to health, then re-release them in the wild. Learn more about adopting a baby elephant at www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org.
- The rescue of an orphaned baby is tough. If the rest of the herd is around, they will protect it, even though they can't feed the baby.
- Orphaned babies are very scared. They often have to be given a sleep medicine before humans can transport it by small plane to the care center.
- The first few days are tough at the orphanage. Sometimes the baby elephants are placed in enclosed stockades to keep them safe until they calm down and see that caregivers are trying to help them.
- Getting medical attention and milk is the top priority for the first few days at the orphanage. Without the milk, the elephant will not live.
- Other elephants in the orphanage will offer comfort and care too. They will use their sounds and trunks to talk and comfort the baby.
- Orphanages use special formula milk developed just for baby elephants. They couldn't survive without these big bottles of milk.
- The rescuers provide more than just milk. They are kind, caring, and very compassionate towards the orphan. The human caretakers do everything they can (with the help of the other elephant orphans) to train the elephant and eventually return it to the wild.
- Rescuers often spend 24 hours with the babies. They even sleep with them so they don't awake and feel scared.
- Blankets are put on the babies to keep them warm and help them feel comforted and touched as if their mama was holding them. It's just like a baby blanket that you might have had!
- A baby orphan seen running, playing and having fun with the other orphans is the sign that everything is going to be okay.