

Giants Alive!

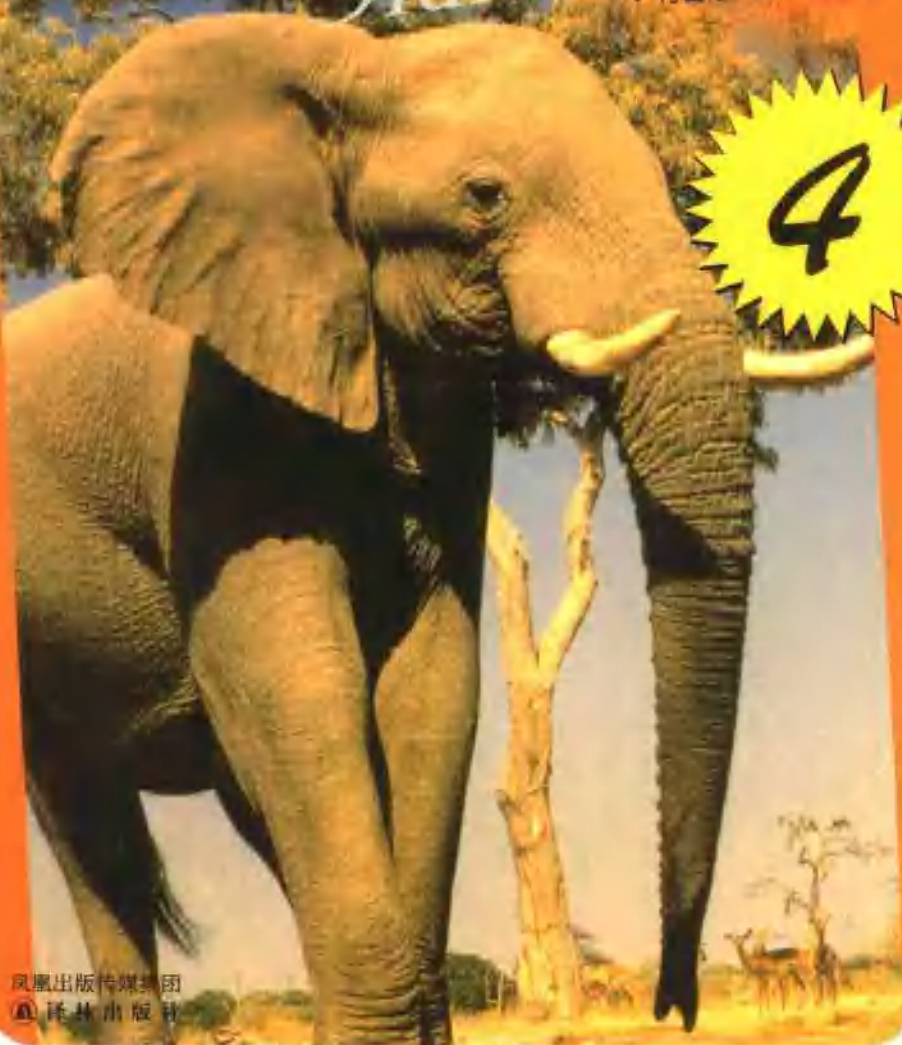
培生
英语阅读

巨型动物

Giants Alive!

◆ 特雷莎·杰弗里斯 著

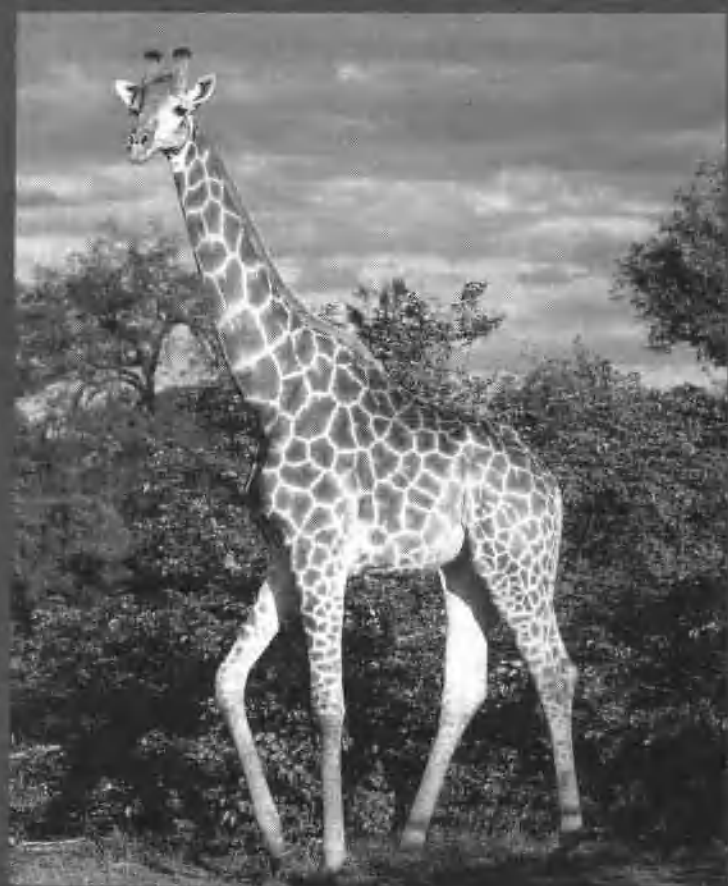
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GIANTS ALIVE!

By Teresa Jeffries



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To those who care for animals
of all sizes

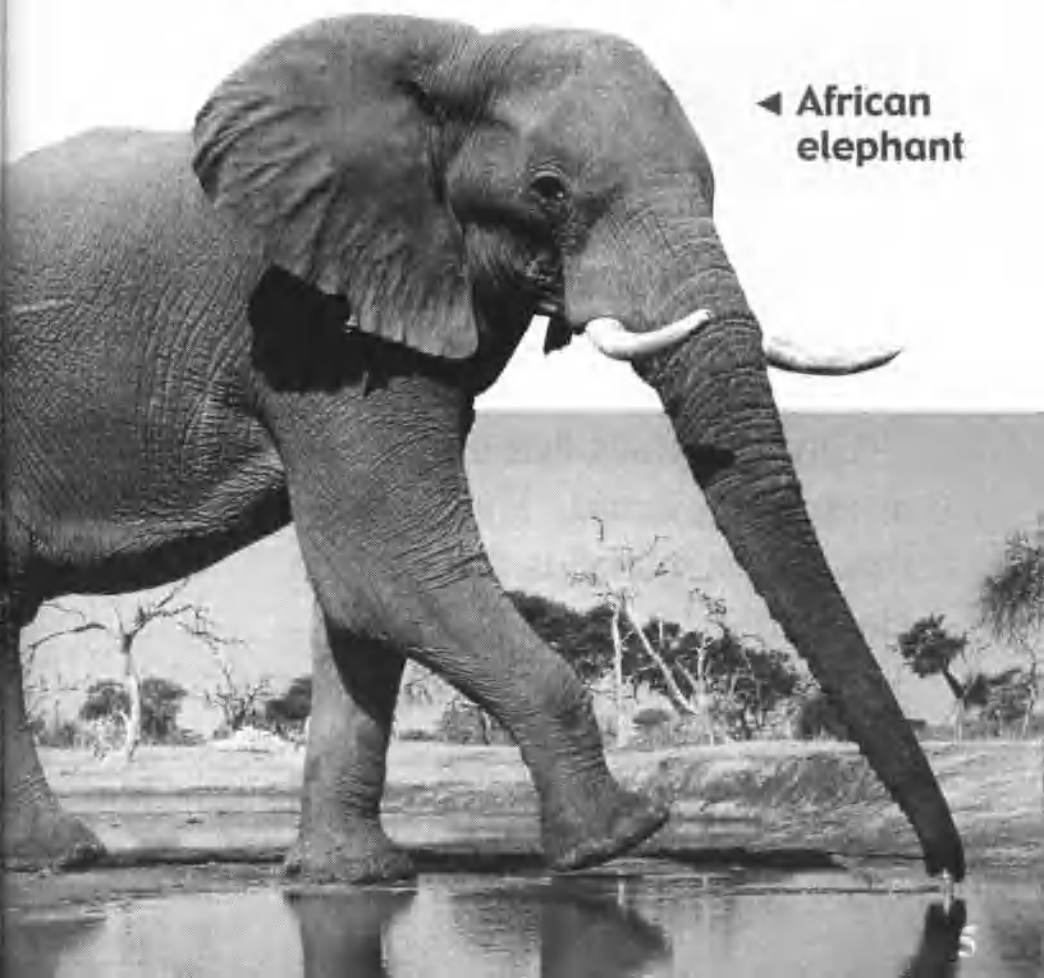


Chapter 1

Big as an Elephant

How big is big? A **giant** is very big. In stories, giant people may be taller than trees. Giants in stories are not real. There are real giants on Earth. These giants are animals like the **elephant**.

◀ African elephant





Giant animals live in different places around the world. The biggest animal that lives on land is the African elephant.

A large elephant may stand over 13 feet tall. That is taller than the top of most rooms. The elephant **weighs** more than four large **pickup** trucks.



▲ Herd of elephants

Even the parts of an elephant are big. Its ears are four feet wide. That means an elephant's ear may be as big as you are.

Elephants also have the biggest teeth in the world. Their **tusks** may be over eight feet long. They weigh **up to** 80 pounds each.



▲ Elephant picking leaves

The elephant's trunk is like a long lip, nose, and hand all in one. The elephant uses its trunk to **pick up** food. Then the trunk puts the food in the elephant's mouth. The elephant can also drink or spray water with its trunk.

The elephant's nostrils are on the very end of its trunk. When the elephant wants to smell something in the wind, it waves its trunk high in the air.

Mother elephants and their babies live together in **herds**. An old mother is always the leader. She shows the other elephants where to find water and food.

If there is danger, the mothers make a **circle**. The baby elephants stand inside the circle where they are safe.

▼ **Elephants bathing in mud**



BIG FACT

Elephants cannot sweat. They like to roll in mud to keep their skin cool.

Chapter 2

Tall as a Giraffe

The **giraffe** is the tallest animal that lives on land. It stands up to 20 feet tall. The **neck** is six feet long. You and six friends would have to stand on each other's shoulders to pet a giraffe on the head.

▼ Giraffe



place

A. spot

B. area

C. put somewhere



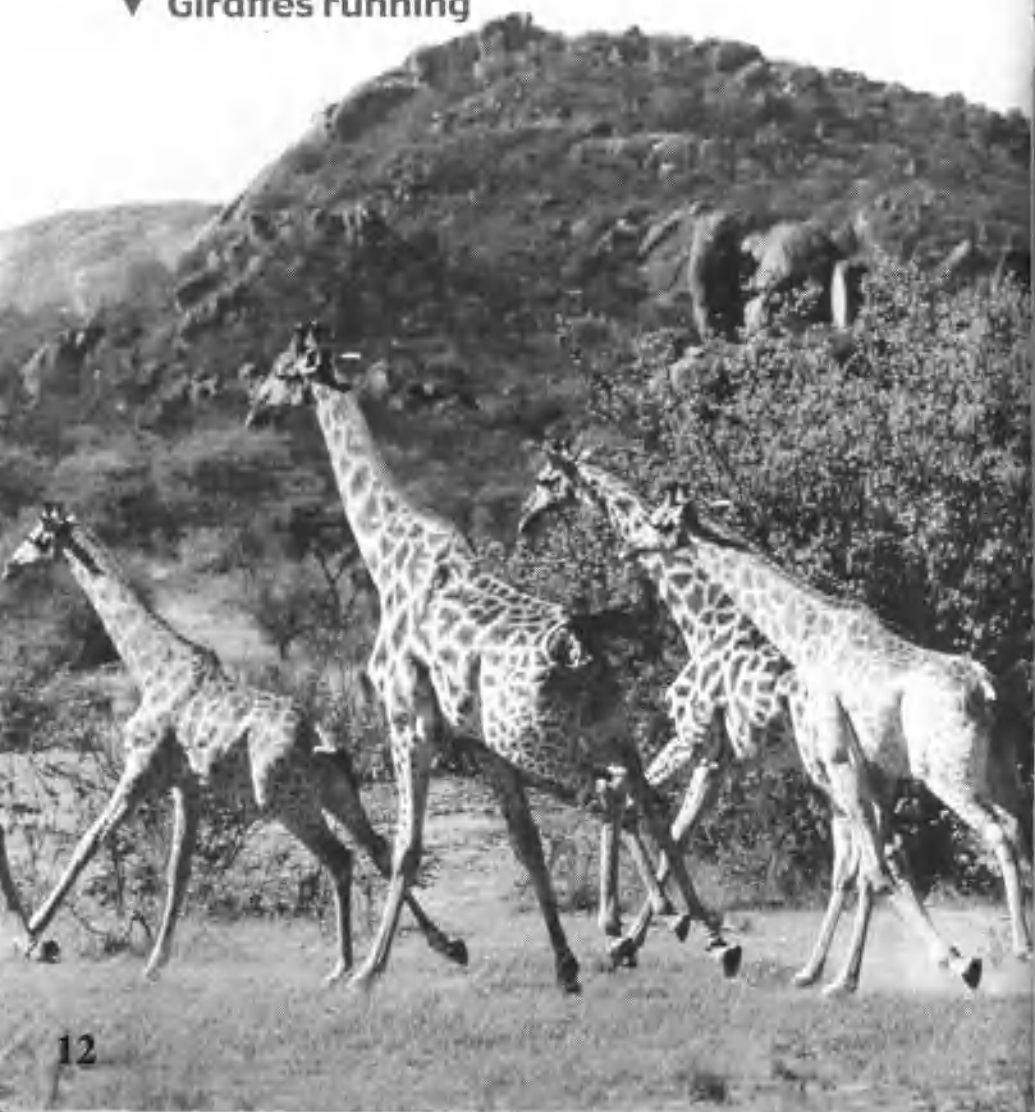
▲ Giraffe drinking water

The giraffe's legs are longer than its neck. This makes it hard for the giraffe to get a drink. It has to **place** its front legs wide so it can reach down to the water.

The giraffe can get some water from the leaves it eats. It can go for a long time without having to drink.

The giraffe is always ready to **run away from** danger. It usually sleeps standing up. When the giraffe runs, it can run fast. If it can't run away, it will kick with its big, heavy feet.

▼ **Giraffes running**





▲ Giraffe eating

When a giraffe stands near trees, it may be hard to see. Its body **is covered with** big, brown spots. These spots help the giraffe **blend in** with the tree **shadows**.

blend

A. mix together

B. separate

C. different

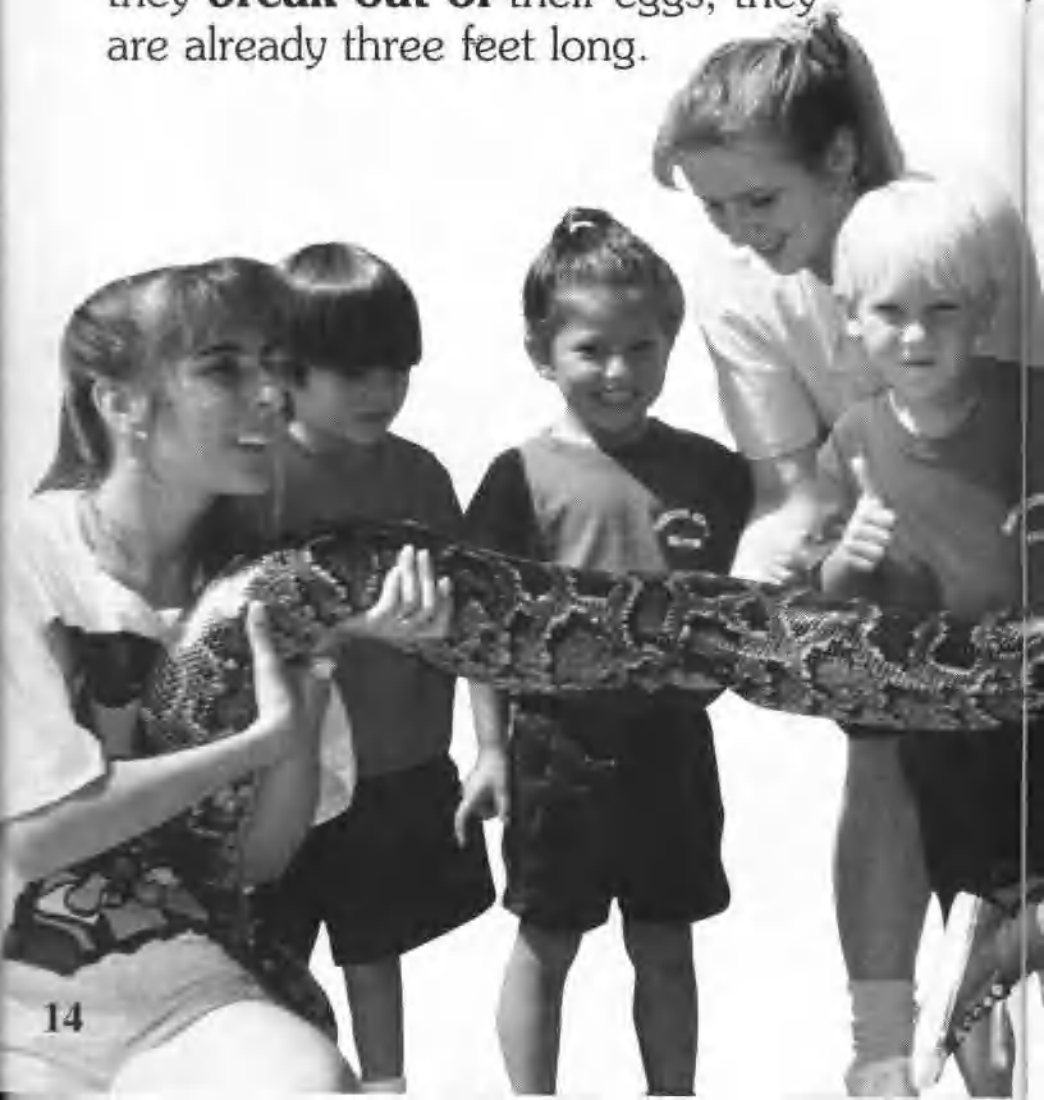
BIG FACT

A lion is the main animal that hunts giraffes. The lion can jump on a giraffe only from a tree or if the giraffe lies down.

Chapter 3

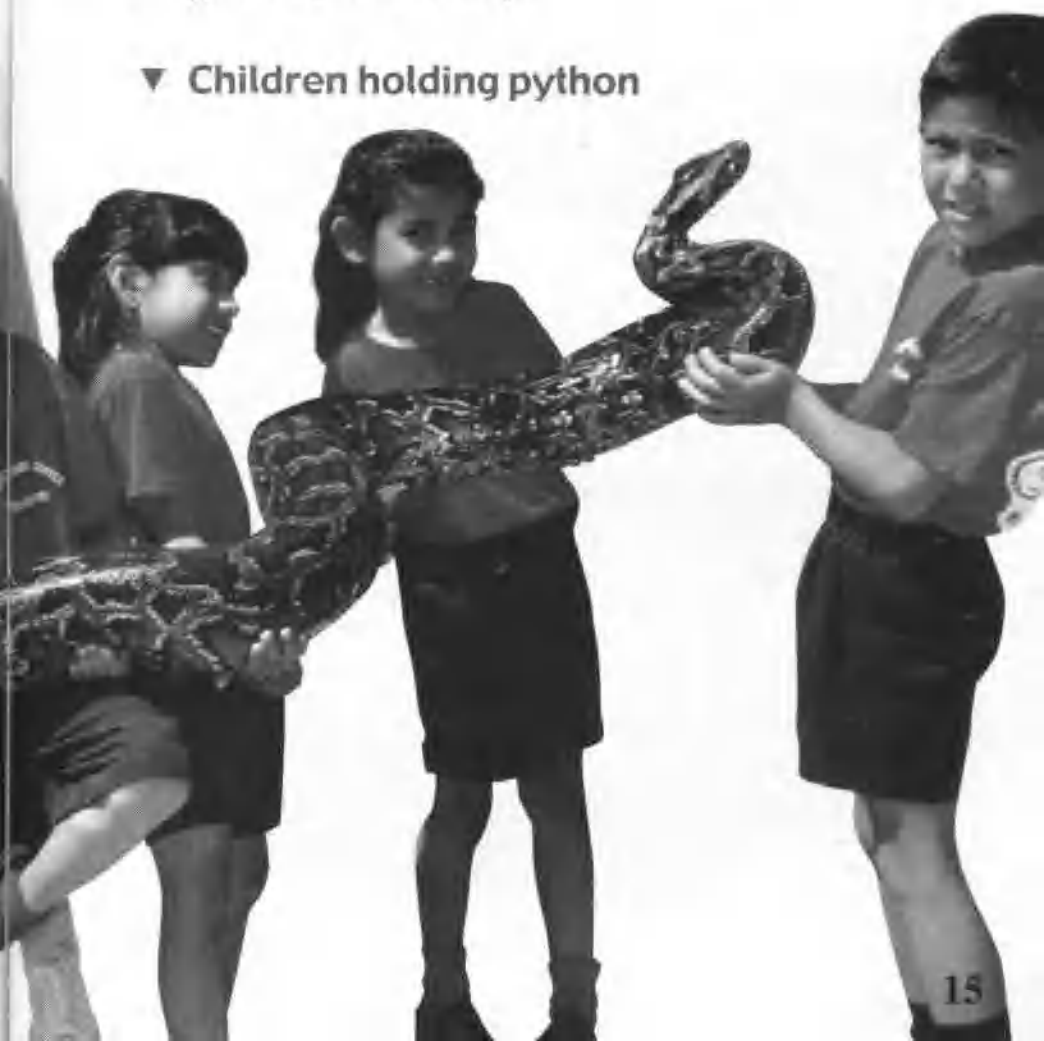
Long as a Python

The biggest snake in the world is the **python**. It may be over 30 feet long and weigh hundreds of pounds. Even baby pythons are long. When they **break out of** their eggs, they are already three feet long.



What does a snake this big eat? It eats other animals. A python's **jaws** can open very wide. Then the python can **swallow** animals as large or larger than a sheep.

▼ Children holding python



A python **grabs** an animal with its mouth. Then it coils around the animal. The python **squeezes** until the animal cannot breathe. If a python has a big meal, it does not have to eat for many weeks. It may lie in the sun day after day to keep warm. The warmth helps the snake's body **digest** the food it has eaten.

▼ Coiled python

