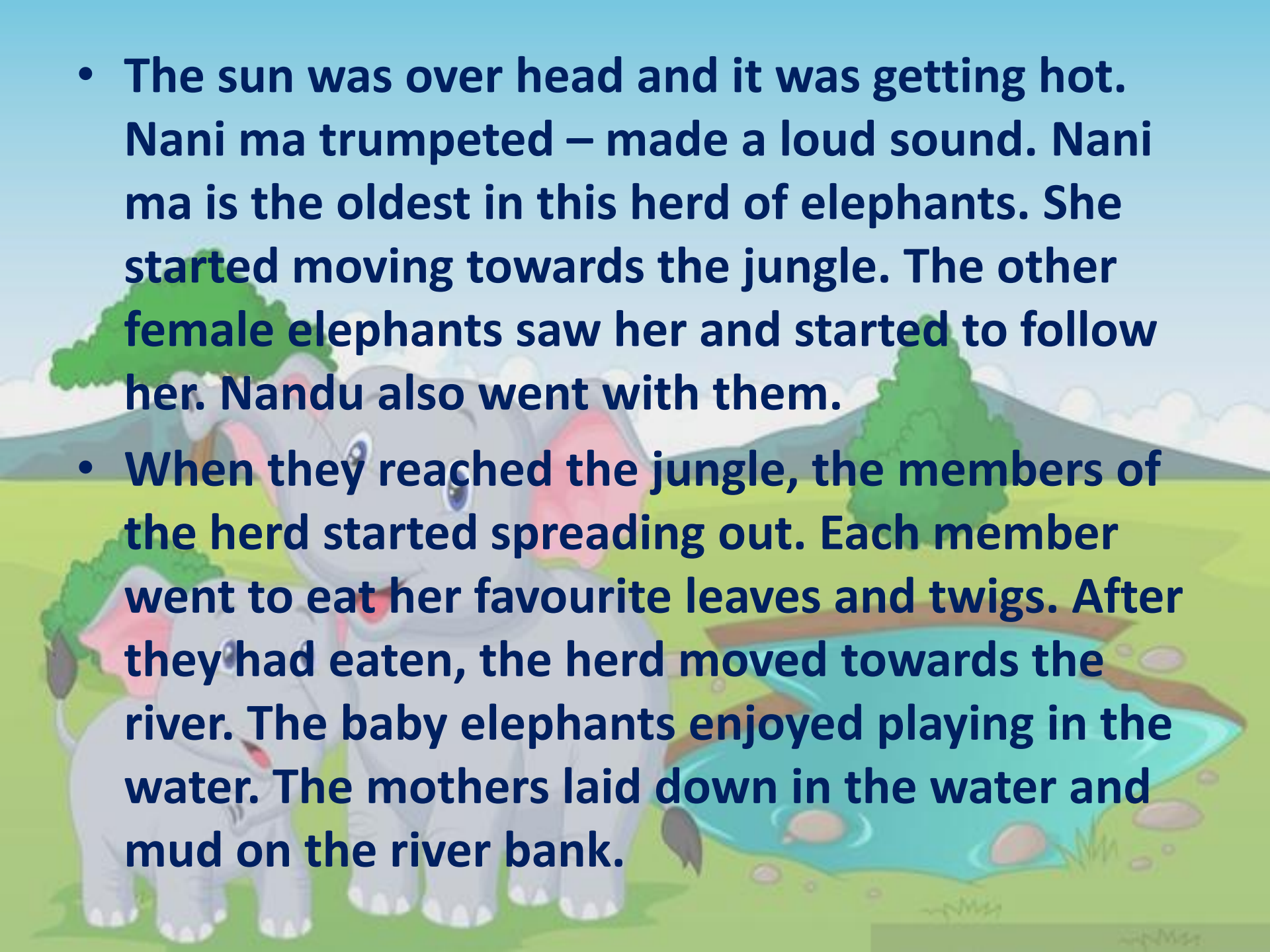


Nandu woke up and opened his eyes. For a few seconds he was not sure where he was. It seemed to him that he was surrounded by a forest of big grey tree trunks.



- The sun was over head and it was getting hot. Nani ma trumpeted – made a loud sound. Nani ma is the oldest in this herd of elephants. She started moving towards the jungle. The other female elephants saw her and started to follow her. Nandu also went with them.
- When they reached the jungle, the members of the herd started spreading out. Each member went to eat her favourite leaves and twigs. After they had eaten, the herd moved towards the river. The baby elephants enjoyed playing in the water. The mothers laid down in the water and mud on the river bank.



* Elephant is the largest and one of the most powerful and intelligent animals. Even though blue whales are the largest animals for they grow up to 30 metres, elephants top the list as far as land animals are concerned. A fully-grown elephant reaches a height of 4 metres and a weight of 6 metric tons.

Elephants



The most remarkable feature of the elephant is its tusks and trunk. The tusks, in fact, are two of its upper teeth that have grown on the outside and become enlarged. A tame or trained elephant uses its tusks to support heavy loads while wild elephants use them as weapons of attack. Tusks are made of ivory which is highly valuable.



And it is for tusks that elephants are hunted down and killed. Even though articles made of ivory are banned in most countries they are available in the black market, and this leads to elephant poaching.



The trunk is another interesting feature of the elephant. It serves as an arm and a hand for picking up twigs and leaves and pushing them into its mouth. The trunk is actually the elephant's lengthened nose and upper lip. It is thick and well-protected on the outside but has a tender inside.



There are two kinds of elephants - the Asian elephant and the African elephant. The Asian elephant is relatively smaller than its African counterpart. While the Asian elephant is 2.75 metres tall and weighs 3.5 metric tons, the African is 3.5 metres tall and weighs about 5 metric tons, and is darker than the Asian species.

Asian Elephant



African Elephant

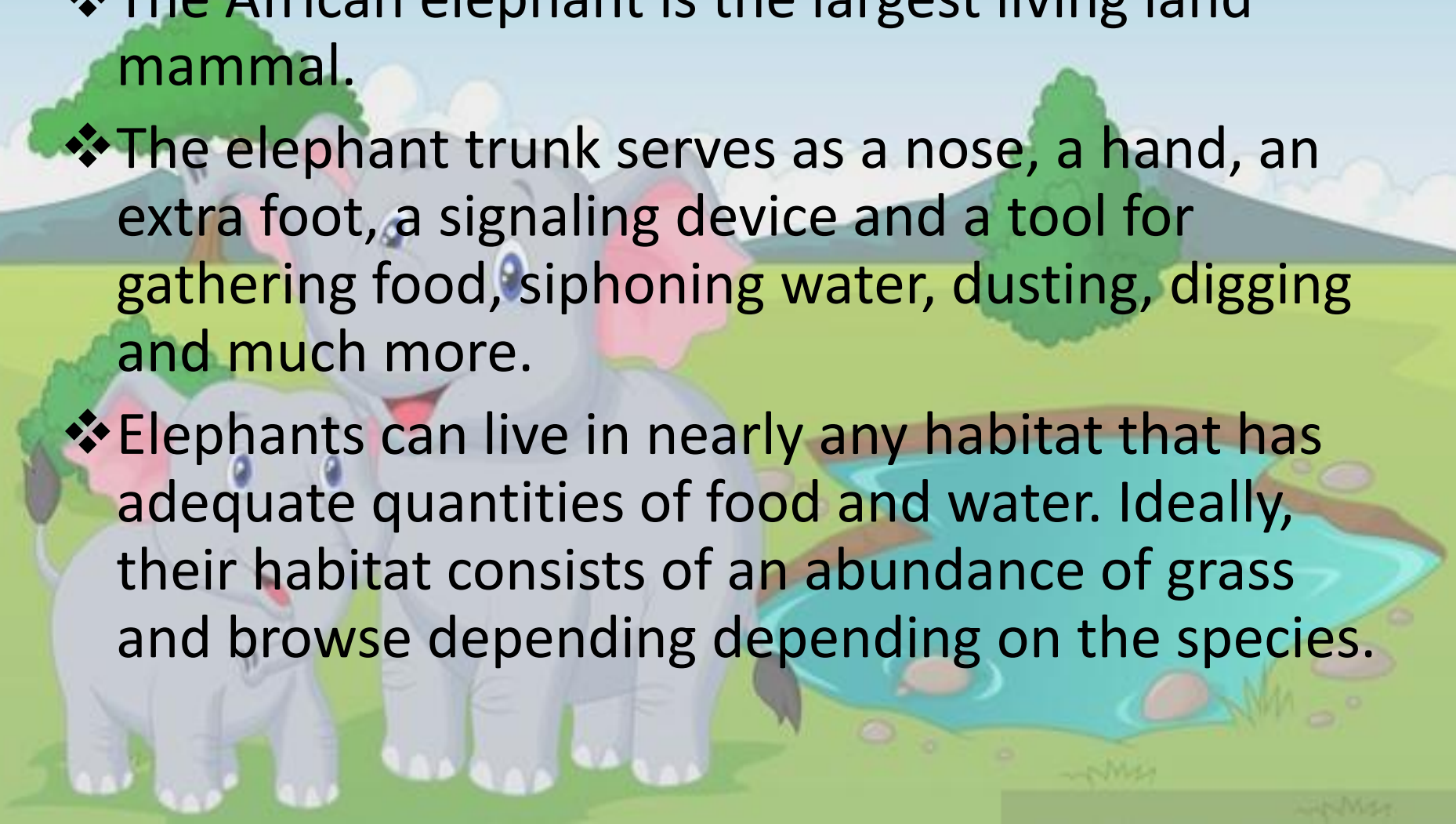


You have read about Nandu and the elephant herd. An elephant herd has only females and baby elephants. The oldest female is the leader of the herd. A herd may have 10 to 12 female elephants and young ones. Male elephants live in the herd till they are 14 –15 years old. Then they leave their herd and move around alone. Nandu will also leave his herd when he is that old. Like elephants, some other animals also live together in groups. These animal groups are called herds. Animals in herds usually move around together, searching for food.

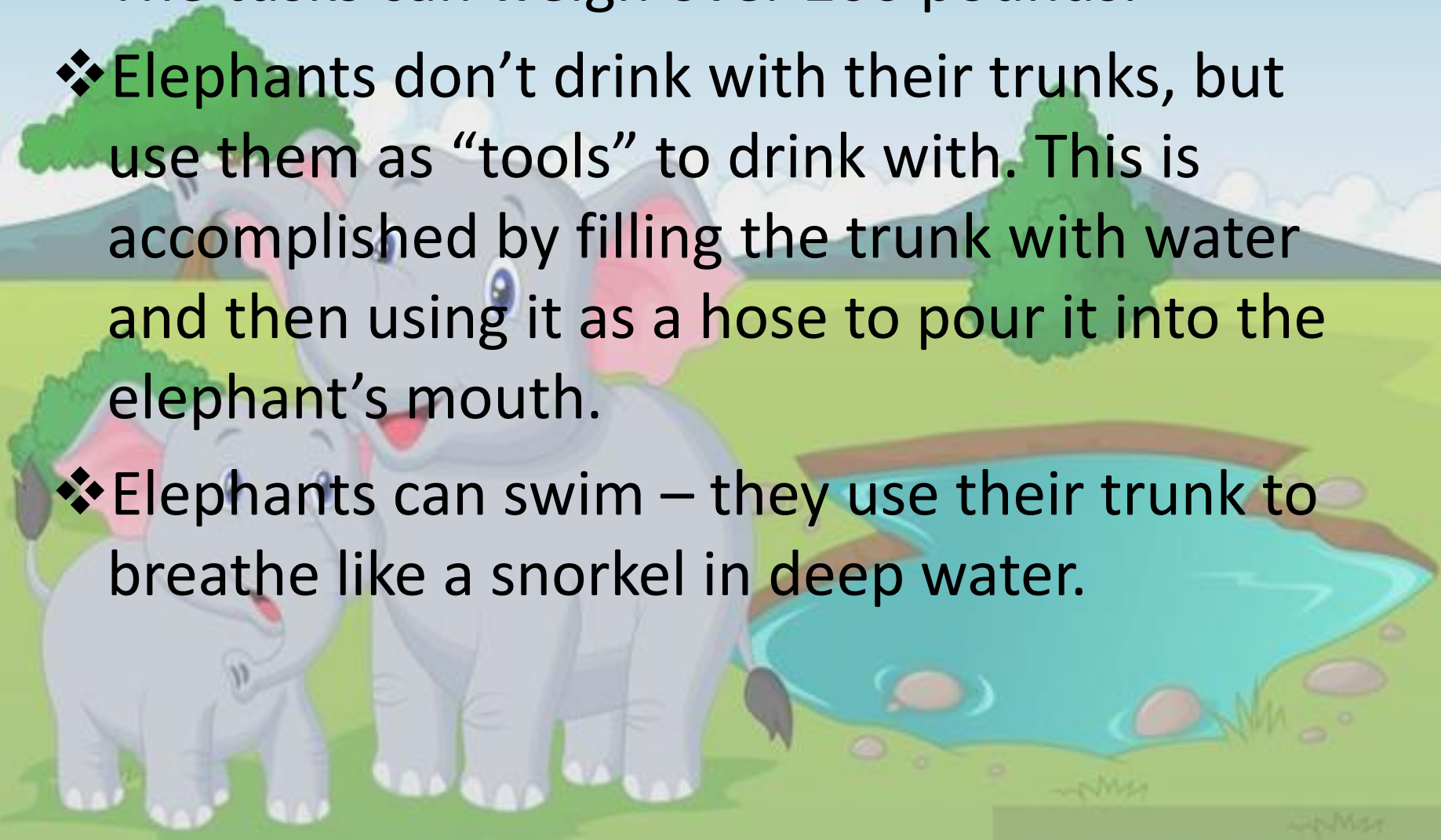


Facts to know about Elephant

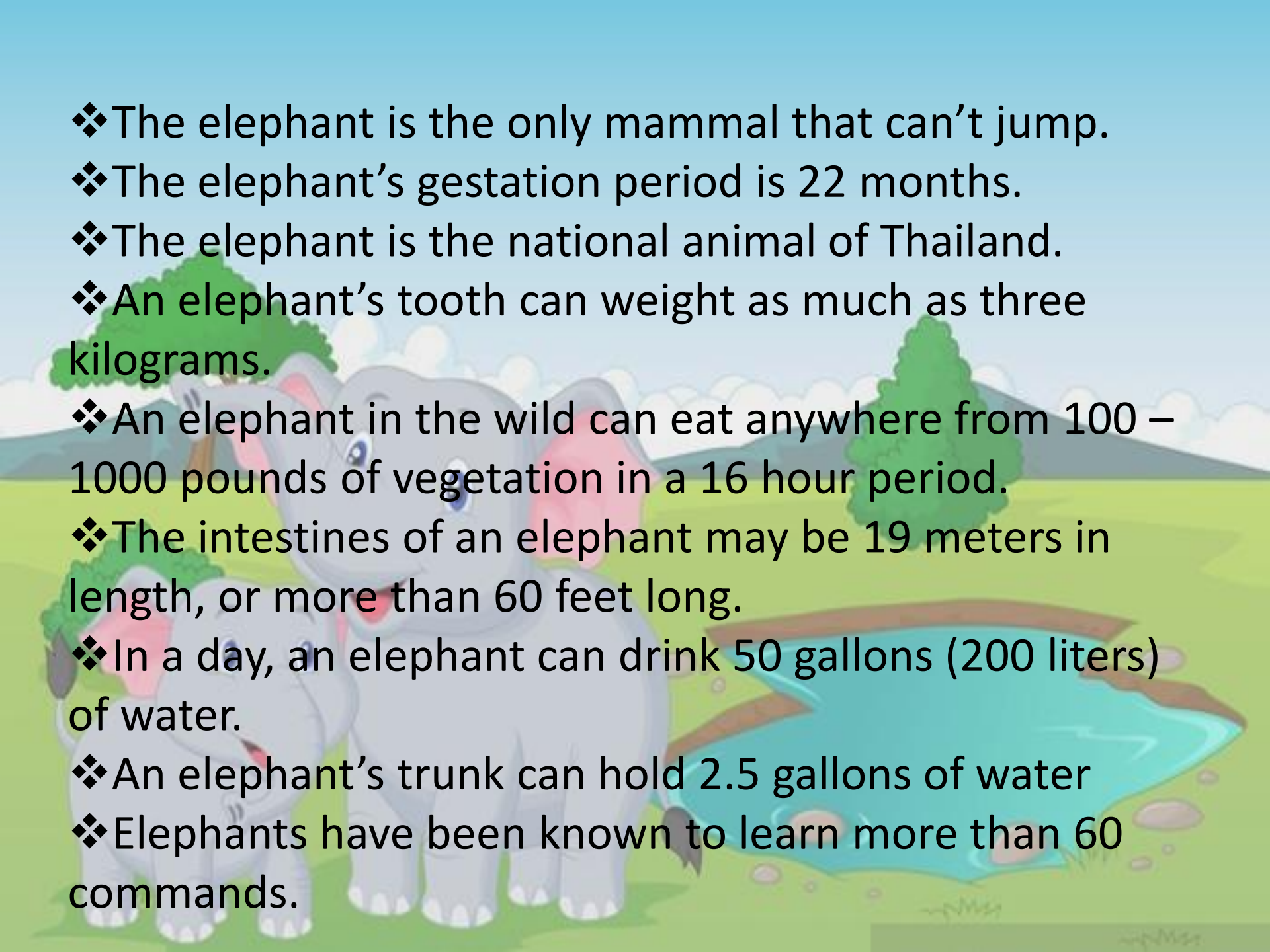
- ❖ The African elephant is the largest living land mammal.
- ❖ The elephant trunk serves as a nose, a hand, an extra foot, a signaling device and a tool for gathering food, siphoning water, dusting, digging and much more.
- ❖ Elephants can live in nearly any habitat that has adequate quantities of food and water. Ideally, their habitat consists of an abundance of grass and browse depending depending on the species.



- ❖ Only the male Asian elephants have tusks.
- ❖ The tusks of elephants grow through their life. The tusks can weigh over 200 pounds.
- ❖ Elephants don't drink with their trunks, but use them as "tools" to drink with. This is accomplished by filling the trunk with water and then using it as a hose to pour it into the elephant's mouth.
- ❖ Elephants can swim – they use their trunk to breathe like a snorkel in deep water.



- ❖ The elephant is the only mammal that can't jump.
- ❖ The elephant's gestation period is 22 months.
- ❖ The elephant is the national animal of Thailand.
- ❖ An elephant's tooth can weight as much as three kilograms.
- ❖ An elephant in the wild can eat anywhere from 100 – 1000 pounds of vegetation in a 16 hour period.
- ❖ The intestines of an elephant may be 19 meters in length, or more than 60 feet long.
- ❖ In a day, an elephant can drink 50 gallons (200 liters) of water.
- ❖ An elephant's trunk can hold 2.5 gallons of water
- ❖ Elephants have been known to learn more than 60 commands.



THANKYOU

