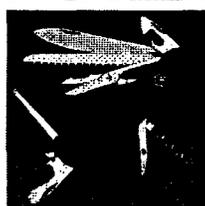




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By Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

MORE THAN JUST A NOSE

One of my favorite tools is a Swiss army knife; however, it is



not just a knife. If you open it up, you'll find a large, locking blade, a

corkscrew, a can opener with a small screwdriver on the end, a bottle opener with a large screwdriver/wire stripper, a reamer, a key ring, tweezers, a toothpick, a wood saw, scissors, and a long, small Philips screwdriver. What an amazing tool!

God created a wonderful animal with an amazing nose; however it is not just a nose. The elephant's nose or trunk is like the Swiss army knife of noses. With its trunk an elephant can:

- ❖ Breath
- ❖ Rub an itchy eye or scratch its ear
- ❖ Pick up 300-pounds
- ❖ Pick up a penny lying flat on the floor
- ❖ Smell for friends, enemies, or food.
- ❖ Grab tasty leaves from the top of 23-foot trees



- ❖ Tear up their food and then place it in their mouth.
- ❖ Knock down a tree.
- ❖ Suck up over 4 gallons of water to drink
- ❖ Spray water over its body for a shower.
- ❖ Sprinkle dust and fling mud on itself to give protection from biting flies and the heat of the sun.
- ❖ Dig a pit 10-feet for water.
- ❖ Raise it as a warning or threat.
- ❖ Defend itself by beating its enemies or by grabbing and throwing them.
- ❖ Play wrestle.
- ❖ Greet and hug a friend.
- ❖ Change its nostril size to change the sound of its voice.
- ❖ Use it as a snorkel when swimming in water.



The elephant's trunk is truly a marvelous tool. It can weigh 400 lbs. and measure 7 feet long. Yet, there are no bones in it. Scientists once thought there were 40,000 muscles in the trunk, but today the trunk is believed to have over 100,000 individual muscles! The entire human body only has 639 muscles!

The trunk is "prehensile", meaning it can wrap or fold around a thing such as a branch. The elephant can feel tiny objects with the sensitive nerve endings that cover the tip of the trunk. Also,

there are one or two "fingers" on the tip to grasp small objects. A few years ago, in a documentary about elephants, the *Discovery Channel* showed a 3-D computer animation about how they thought the elephant got his long trunk – about 55 million years ago.

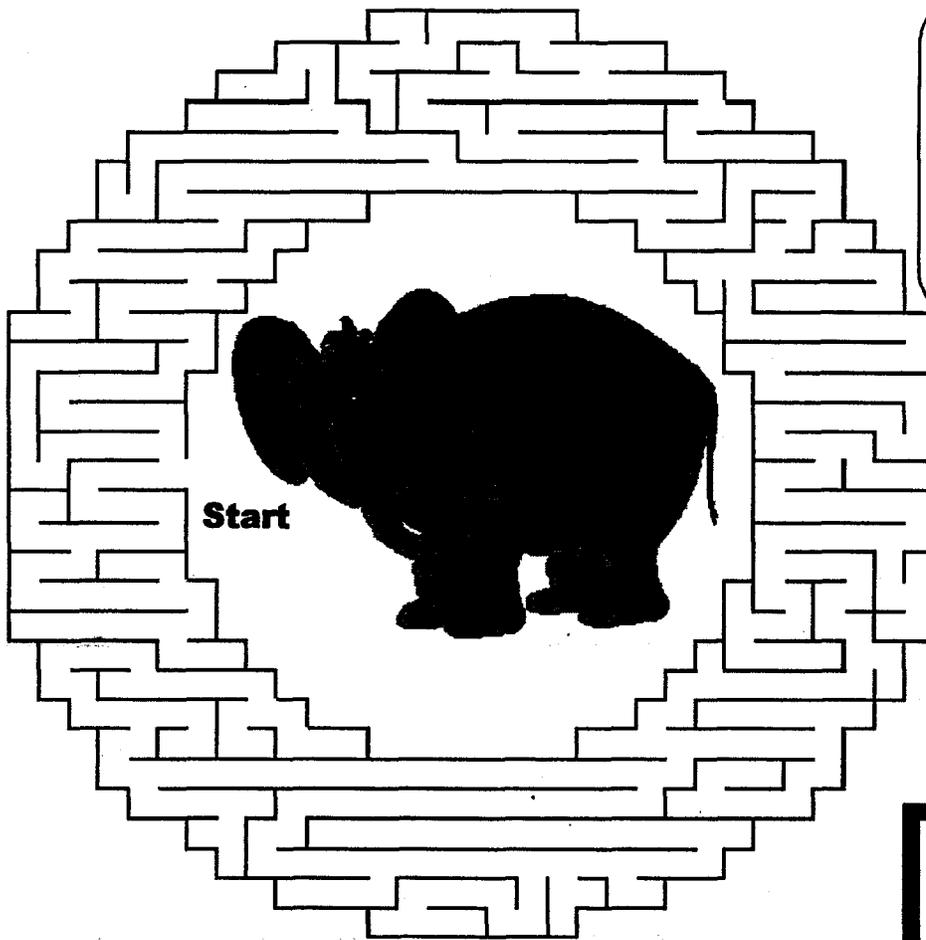
They showed short-legged creatures about the size of a pig using their upper lips and noses to eat. As time went by, these animals were shown to grow taller. As they grew, the jaws and noses also grew so that they could reach the ground to eat. Because their skulls and large teeth grew heavier, their necks grew shorter and thicker to hold the weight. These creatures continued to grow for millions of years. As they grew, their jaws and trunks also grew longer and longer.

About 35 million years later, the lower jaw started to shrink, but the trunk stayed long and touched the ground.

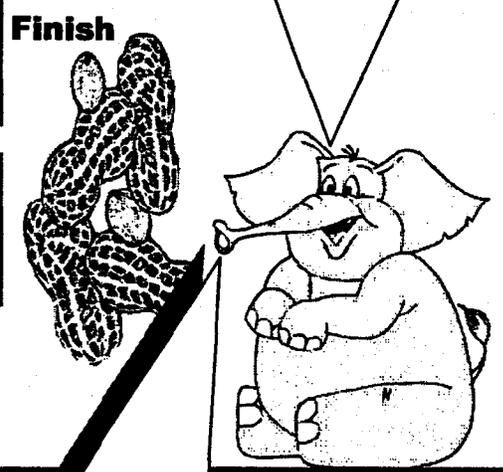
This well-done animation of the evolution of the elephant's trunk was shown as fact. However, not one piece of scientific evidence was given to show how this story might be true. It was all based on imagination.

Whenever we watch programs shows like the *Discovery Channel*, or look at pictures in books or museums, we need to remember we are looking at **ARTWORK**. When we remember that, we need to ask, "What's the Evidence?" Does what was found (or not found) show that story is true? Or is it someone's imaginary idea?

The multipurpose elephant's trunk is far too complicated to have come about by evolution. I believe its design points to an intelligent Creator!



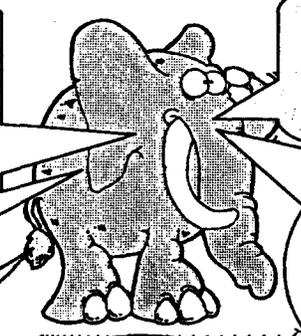
A female elephant is pregnant for 22 months! We think 9 months is a long time! Once born, a baby elephant weighs about 250 pounds and stands about 3 feet tall.



Elephants can make at least 25 different calls - each with a special meaning. It can also understand up to 40 commands from a human.

Help Jumbo the elephant get out of the maze to eat his jumbo-sized peanuts.

My tusks serve as weapons, shovels, rippers, and scrapers. Both together can weigh over 441 pounds.



My 6-foot by 4-foot ears can weigh up to 110 pounds ...each!

By flapping my ears I can lower my inside blood temperature 9°. Cools me down!

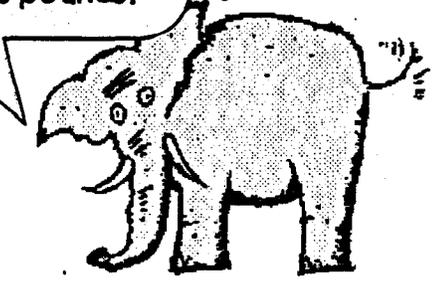
Elephants drink 26 to 80 gallons of water a day. That's about 2½ bathtubs full!

Elephants can live to be about 60 years old in the wild.

My 22-pound tail is 4 feet long and sports a 3-foot bunch of wiry hair at the end (perfect for swatting flies). It is NOT the tail of a Behemoth found in Job 40:15.

The heaviest elephant on record was over 14,500 pounds. That is about the same as weighing 250 kids all together!

An adult male African Elephant is about 11 feet tall at the shoulder and weighs about 12,000 pounds.



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