AN ELEPHANT'S LIFE
Elephants are the largest land animals on earth. They have the largest brains of any animal.

Researchers have discovered 70 different types of calls that elephants use to communicate with each other.

Elephants' trunks are strong enough to pick up trees but sensitive enough to pick a flower.

Elephants use sticks as tools to sweep paths, to scratch themselves, to swat flies, and to draw in the dirt.

Elephants are good swimmers and use their trunks like snorkels.

Elephants use plants and minerals to keep themselves healthy. Some use their tusks to mine minerals in caves to supplement their diets.

Elephants live together in family groups. They help each other when they're in trouble and join together to care for and rescue their young.

Learn more about elephants! Help keep elephants wild and free!
WHAT A GREAT CIRCUS!

THAT'S MY AUNT ON THE TRAPEZE!

WOW! LOOK AT THE STRONGMAN!

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WOW! LOOK AT THE STRONGMAN!
I like elephants, too! But they don’t belong in circuses!

Do you kids want to go see something really exciting?!

Yeah!

Where are we going?

To see an old friend!

Why are you so interested in elephants, Leo?

Elephants are awesome! They’re the biggest land animals on earth!

All wild elephants live in Africa and Asia!

Elephants live in family groups called herds. A herd usually has several female elephants, their young adult daughters, and their babies. The oldest and largest female elephant is the leader of the family. Adult male elephants live apart from the herd most of the time.
The baby elephants are cared for by their mothers. Aunts, cousins, and sisters also help take care of the babies.

Baby elephants spend much of their time walking, playing, and drinking their mother’s milk.

Elephants care for sick or injured family members. When elephants die, their families moan, cry, and bury them under branches, grass, and earth.

Did you know that elephants can talk to each other?

Elephants talk by trumpeting, squeaking, and rumbling. Mothers quietly hum and “sing” to their babies to keep them happy.

Elephants can talk over long distances with rumblings that the human ear can’t even hear!
LET'S TAKE A BREAK— I BROUGHT A SNACK!

ALEXANDER, HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT ELEPHANTS?

WE USED TO WORK IN A CIRCUS THAT USED ELEPHANTS. IT MADE ME WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM.

WE EVEN BECAME FRIENDS WITH ONE ELEPHANT.

HER NAME WAS DAISY. HERE'S HER PICTURE!

WE LEARNED THAT DAISY WAS INTELLIGENT AND SENSITIVE. WE STARTED VISITING HER BETWEEN PERFORMANCES.

THEN ONE DAY ...

COME ON, YOU DUMB BEAST!
GET GOING!

STOP THAT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WE GOT A SHOW TO PUT ON! I Gotta MAKE HER MOVE!

TAKE IT EASY! THAT BULLHOOK HURTS HER! I'LL BE WATCHING YOU!
We decided to learn more about Daisy and how she got to the circus.

Tell us, Aunt Athena!

I always wondered where Elephants in Circuses came from.

Daisy’s story is the same as those of most captive elephants! She started life with her happy family in the wild.

She played with her brothers and sisters as she explored her world.

But her peaceful life would soon be changed forever...

Men invaded the elephants’ home. They were paid to capture baby elephants to sell to circuses.
Daisy would never see her family again. What happened to her?

Baby elephants are chained and sometimes beaten every day to break their spirits ...

Daisy’s legs were chained so she couldn’t move. Sometimes elephants are chained tightly around their necks so they can’t even move their heads. Often they are chained for long periods to make them obey.

Elephants are trained or punished with sharp pointed hooks or whips. These giant creatures have sensitive skin and feel great pain from this treatment.

An elephant’s life in the circus is very different from life in the wild.
Elephants can walk up to 30 miles a day and may have up to 140 square miles of territory.

Elephants are chained in place and kept in small living areas. They are moved long distances in cramped train cars or trucks with little exercise, and they get leg pain and foot injuries.

Elephants use leaves and mud to keep their bodies cool and prevent sunburn.

Elephants are often chained in the sun or on hot train cars for long periods of time.

Elephants eat a variety of fresh grasses, leaves, fruit, bark, and aquatic plants.

Elephants are usually fed only dried hay and grains.

Female elephants stay with their families all their lives. Male elephants stay with their families for 10 to 15 years.

Elephants are separated from their families when they’re very young.

Elephants can live up to 70 years in the wild. With such unnatural treatment, captive elephants usually live only about half that long.
All elephants in circuses have a hard life in captivity ... and Daisy was no different.

We realized that the circus used animals only to make money. It didn’t matter if the animals weren’t happy.

We heard about a new circus that didn’t use animals.

We decided to join it and stop helping the circus that hurt animals.

Yeah! Besides, I’m amazed what people can do! You guys were awesome!

I thought a circus needed animals! After what I just heard, I’m glad you don’t use animals in your circus.

Are you guys ready to hike?

Sure, let’s go!

Where are we going?

To see our old friend!
ARE THERE OTHER CIRCUSES THAT DON'T USE ANIMALS?

YES, AND MORE CIRCUSES ARE LEARNING THAT THEY DON'T NEED ANIMALS TO ENTERTAIN PEOPLE.

IN FACT, SOME TOWNS HAVE BANNED CIRCUSES WITH CAPTIVE ANIMALS BECAUSE THEY ARE DANGEROUS TO PEOPLE. SOMETIMES ELEPHANTS CRACK UNDER STRESS, TRY TO RUN AWAY ... AND ARE SHOT!

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO DAISY?

OUR OLD CIRCUS WAS FINED FOR MISTREATING THE ANIMALS. THE OWNER DECIDED TO SELL DAISY.

EVEN EVERYBODY WHO KNEW AND LIKED DAISY GAVE MONEY TO HELP US RESCUE HER. WE ALSO GOT FUNDS FROM AN ASSOCIATION THAT HELP CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS.

THE DAY FINALLY CAME WHEN DAISY WAS TO BE FREED. SHE SEEMED TO SENSE SOMETHING WAS DIFFERENT AS ALEXANDER APPROACHED HER.
It felt great to break Daisy’s chains.

We can all help break the chains of other elephants in circuses, too!

How can we help?!
Don’t go to circuses that use captive animals! If people stopped paying to see elephants, circuses would stop using them.

Speak up for elephants!! Tell your family and friends why animal-free circuses are better!

Ask your parents to tell local officials they don’t want circuses with captive animals!

Find out how you can help protect animals. Contact organizations that care for and help protect animals.

If everybody helps, we can help break the chains of captive animals in circuses.

So, what ever became of Daisy?

Remember that old friend I told you we were going to see?
There she is!
Hello, Daisy!
Wow!

Daisy is lucky! She lives in an elephant sanctuary where she can roam free.
Most captive elephants never get their freedom.

It’s best to let wild elephants stay wild!

We need to let circuses know that we don’t want animals held captive for our entertainment!

Goodbye, Daisy!
A mother elephant named Ma Shwe lived with her baby by a river in India. One day, after heavy rains, the river began to rise.

The floodwaters carried the baby downstream. Ma Shwe tried to hold on to her baby, but the waters washed the baby away.

Ma Shwe rushed downstream and plunged into the raging river. She grabbed her baby and set her on a ledge.

Then she fell back into the water. Her baby stayed on the ledge, shivering and afraid.

The baby heard a trumpeting sound—it was her mother! Ma Shwe had escaped the river and was running back to her child!

As the waters went down, Ma Shwe made soft humming noises to calm the little elephant. Just like any family, they were glad to be back together again.
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