

词汇: *society* 社会

As well as impressive **physical attributes**, elephants have a rich cultural **heritage**, passed down through **customs** and **social behaviour** which is learned, remembered, and shared within their **herds**.

This is possible partly because of their **social structure**. Elephants live in complex, **tightly knit, multigenerational** societies, led by older females known as **matriarchs**. Younger elephants observe and **mimic** the behaviour of their **elders**, learning through experience. It helps that the herd does almost everything together, from foraging and feeding to **raising** each others' young. These interactions lead to deep **long-lasting** relationships, which can last for decades.

Possibly because of these **bonds**, elephants seem to have **emotional capacity**. Just like humans, the creatures have been seen displaying signs of **grief**. When an elephant dies, others in the herd have been observed to repeatedly return to where the individual **passed**, which is said to be part of a **mourning ritual**. They may sniff and touch the carcass and bones and cover the site with leaves and sand. Moreover, a 2020 study by researchers Goldenberg and Wittemyer found that "elephants show broad interest in their dead regardless of the strength of former relationships with the dead individual", which may indicate advanced **sentience**, the scientists say.

There's a saying found in many languages – 'an elephant never forgets'. In fact, memory has been essential to the **survival** of some elephant herds. A study within Great Kruger National Park found that, during an extreme **drought** in 2016, elephant groups led by matriarchs who had previously lived through a severe drought, had higher **survival rates**. Researchers concluded that the matriarchs likely remembered where sources of water could be located.

So, count yourself lucky that you live on the same planet as these immense majestic animals.

词汇表

physical attribute	身体特征
heritage	遗产
custom	习俗
social behaviour	社群行为
herd	(兽)群
social structure	社群结构
tightly knit	联系紧密的
multigenerational	多代共存的
matriarch	(象群中的) 年长母象
mimic	模仿
elder	长辈
raise	抚养, 喂养
long-lasting	持久的
bond	联系
emotional capacity	情感能力
grief	悲痛, 悲伤
pass	死亡
mourning ritual	哀悼的仪式
sentience	感知能力
survival	生存
drought	干旱
survival rate	存活率

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What is the social structure of elephant societies?
2. How do young elephants learn from their elders?
3. Why do elephants seem to have emotional capacity?
4. True or False? *Elephants touch the leaves and sand near an elephant carcass.*
5. Why did some elephant groups have higher survival rates in the 2016 drought?

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. Because of _____, the crops didn't have enough water to grow.

bonds	herds	droughts	matriarchs
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2. My dog is unwell. The vet says he has a 50/50 chance of _____.

heritage	custom	ritual	survival
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3. It's a _____ relationship. They've spoken every day for the last 55 years!

social	emotional	physical	long-lasting
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4. My friend's parrot _____ her. If she says 'hello', the parrot says it back!

raises	mimics	leads	passes
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5. After the argument, the friendship group wasn't as _____ as before.

tightly knit	multigenerational	majestic	advanced
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What is the social structure of elephant societies?

Elephants live in complex, tightly knit, multigenerational societies, led by older females known as matriarchs.

2. How do young elephants learn from their elders?

Younger elephants observe and mimic the behaviour of their elders, learning through experience.

3. Why do elephants seem to have emotional capacity?

Because they have been seen producing signs of grief.

4. True or False? *Elephants touch the leaves and sand near an elephant carcass.*

False. They may sniff and touch the carcass and bones and cover the site with leaves and sand.

5. Why did some elephant groups have higher survival rates in the 2016 drought?

Because the matriarchs likely remembered where sources of water could be located.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. Because of **drought**, the crops didn't have enough water to grow.

2. My dog is unwell. The vet says he has a 50/50 chance of **survival**.

3. It's a **long-lasting** relationship. They've spoken every day for the last 55 years!

4. My friend's parrot **mimics** her. If she says 'hello', the parrot says it back!

5. After the argument, the friendship group wasn't as **tightly knit** as before.