THE Big PICTURE

Elephants are big—really big. They are smart too. Elephants are the largest land animals. Adults are about 10 feet tall. That's as tall as a basketball hoop. Some can weigh almost as much as six cars!

Elephants have big teeth.

Elephants have back teeth as big as bricks. The two long front teeth are called tusks. They can be 10 feet long! Elephants carry things with their tusks. They dig for water and food with tusks.

Elephants have long noses called trunks.

The trunk is used to smell, eat, drink, scratch, move things or greet friends. An elephant uses its trunk to suck up water. Then it squirts the water from the trunk into its mouth. An elephant also uses a trunk to pick up food and put it in its mouth.

Elephants use ears and trunks to stay cool.

An elephant uses the trunk to give itself a shower. This cools it on hot days. Elephants flap their ears to keep cool, too.

Elephants are smart.

They know how to work together. They can even "talk" to each other by making different sounds. They have great memories. They remember family members they haven't seen in years.

Elephants can be emotional.

They make trumpet sounds when they are happy. They seem sad when loved ones die. They kiss or touch with their trunks to show affection. They are loyal and care for each other.
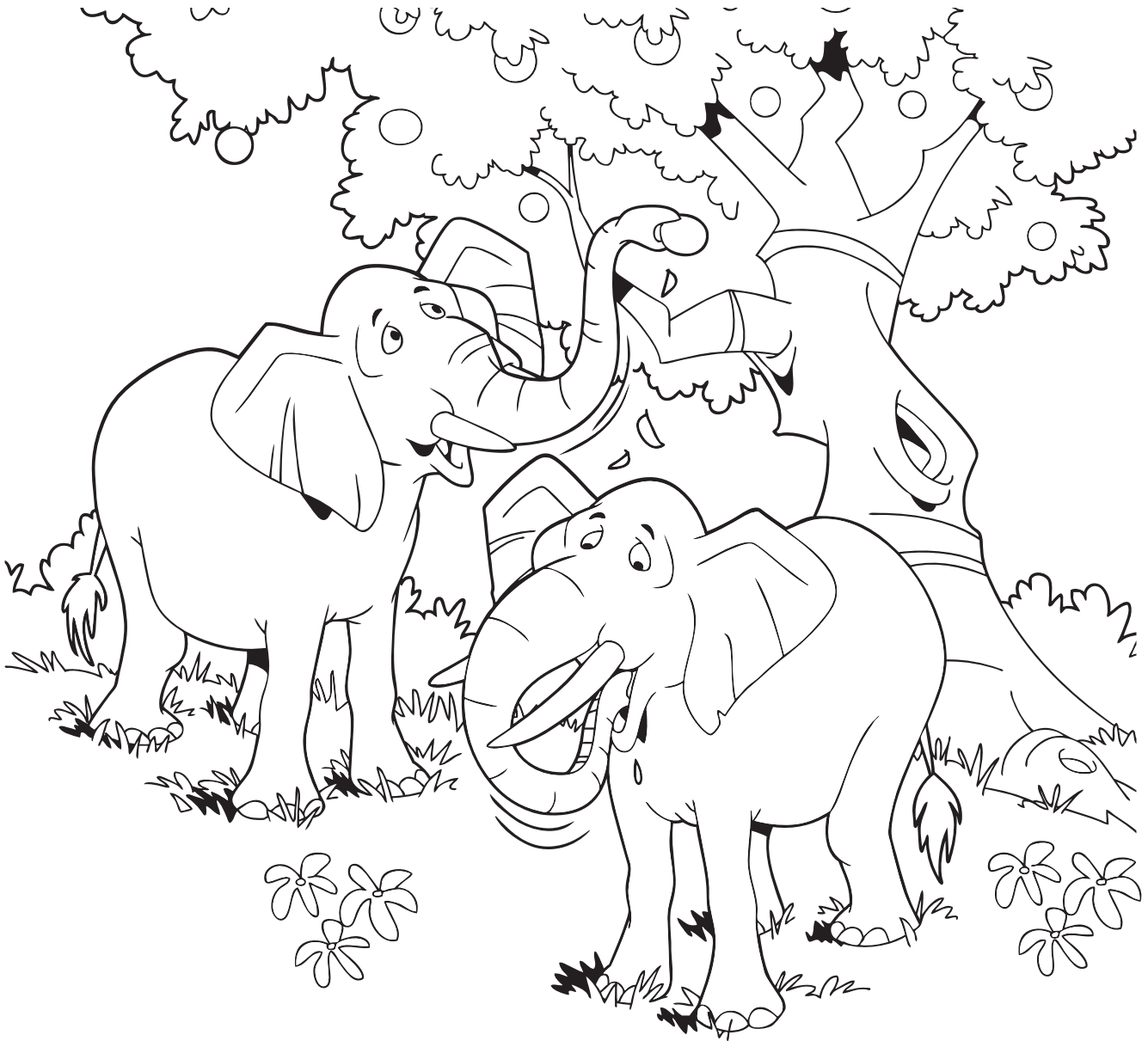
Elephants do not eat meat.

They eat plants—lots of plants! They use their trunks to pick fruit and leaves from trees. They spend 16 to 20 hours a day eating. An elephant can eat 400 pounds of food a day.

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BIG Appetites

What did you learn about elephants? Answer the questions below. Put a check in the correct box. Then colour the picture.

1. Elephants are: ☐ plant eaters ☐ meat eaters

2. Elephants can eat up to: ☐ 2 hours per day ☐ 16-20 hours per day

3. Elephants use their trunks to: ☐ get fruit and leaves ☐ sit on

4. Elephants dig for water with their: ☐ ears ☐ tusks

5. An elephant swallows food in its: ☐ mouth ☐ trunk

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