

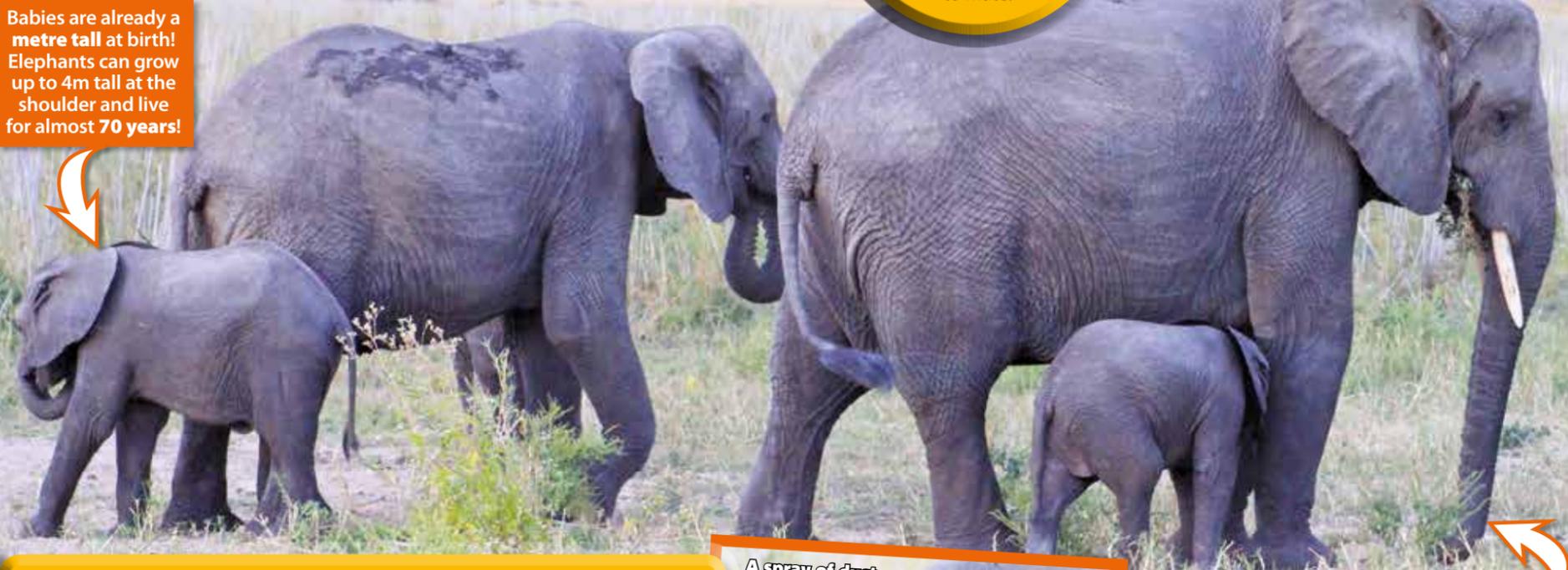
Back on dry land, we meet mean monkeys, bonkers birds, adorable elephants and more...

Babies are already a metre tall at birth! Elephants can grow up to 4m tall at the shoulder and live for almost 70 years!

Some of the sounds elephants make **can't be heard by humans!** These low noises travel for more than 8km and may be used to tell the males (who live separately) when females are ready to mate.

African elephants' ears are the shape of the **African continent** – a handy way to tell them apart from **Asian elephants!** These large lugs work as **fans**, and they also **radiate heat** to help keep the nellies cool.

Elephants and hornbill © Georgia Harrison, Kids © Children in the Wilderness. All other pictures © Getty Images UK.



### African elephants

A herd of female **African elephants** and their young are grazing peacefully, in front of our jeep – they're the **largest land animals** in the world. The littlest one trips over his trunk – he's still figuring out how to use it! Just like humans, elephants have to

**learn the skills** they need to survive. His older brothers and sisters keep an eye on him, in between play-fighting and shoving each other with their trunks. The largest female, known as the **matriarch**, is the wisest and oldest member of the group – she leads the others and makes decisions, including when and where they eat and drink.

A spray of dust helps keep parasites away!



Elephants' famous trunks have around **100,000 muscles** and are used for smelling, feeding, drinking, greetings, spraying and trumpeting! Two finger-like protrusions at the end help them grab things.

### Southern ground hornbills

We're being eyeballed by some strange prehistoric-looking creatures. The huge **1.2-m-tall red-faced birds** are the **largest hornbills in the world**. They live in groups of around ten, defending enormous territories of up to **100 km<sup>2</sup>** using loud booming calls to scare off other hornbills. There's only one breeding pair per group, but the others may help feed the nesting mother and chick in their feather-lined, tree-hole nest. Boom!



### Children in the Wilderness

Malawi kids become conservation leaders!



Kids plant trees at an Eco-Club!



**Deforestation** is a big problem in Malawi. It's the third poorest country in the world, and as many people don't have access to electricity, they cut down trees to use as firewood, or turn into charcoal.

But a project called **Children in the Wilderness** is helping teach rural kids about the importance of their forests and wildlife. They help schools set up **Eco-Clubs**, where pupils can learn all about their environment. The most enthusiastic **Eco-Club** members get to go on a **Wilderness Safari camp** and are later provided with **scholarships** so they can afford to go to university – they're encouraged every step of the way. Many of the first **Children in the Wilderness** now have great jobs and are important members of their communities, passing on their environmental knowledge to **future generations**. Cool!

### Yellow Baboons

A **troop of baboons** sit on the parched grass, happily snacking on food. "That's **elephant dung** they're eating," chuckles David. "They rip it apart to get to the **undigested seeds** inside." We're grossed out, but it turns out that picking through poop isn't this **aggressive monkey's** worst eating habit. They've also been known to steal **impala babies** and eat them *alive*. Nasty!



### Nile monitors

How rude! There's a 2m-long-reptile sticking its tongue out at us. **Africa's largest lizard** is actually **tasting the air** to detect food. These greedy predators even eat **crocodile eggs**. But it has a clever trick to stop its *own* eggs from being gobbled – it lays them in **termite mounds**. "When the termites see a hole has been made in their nest, they quickly fix it, sealing the eggs safely inside," explains David. "About 6-9 months later, when the babies hatch, there's a **delicious meal** waiting for them – termites." Slurp!

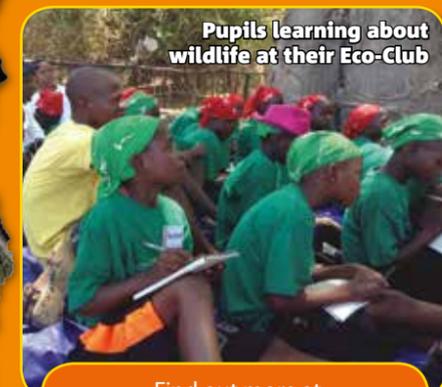


### African civets

Driving home in the pitch black, a pair of eyes suddenly glint in our headlights. It's an **African civet**, a secretive **nocturnal** mammal with a racoon-like face, a pretty coat (no two are alike) and a **crest of fur on its spine** that stands up 12cm when threatened. The civet emits a **strong scent** from glands near its bum, which used to be used in posh perfumes. Eww!



Pupils learning about wildlife at their Eco-Club



Find out more at [Childreninthewilderness.com](http://Childreninthewilderness.com)

Turn over to join us on the lookout for a rare black rhino...