

July 12, 2015

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Asian elephants: Monsters or Unique Mammals?

Elephas (elephants) are one of two surviving genera in the family Proboscidea. In particular, Asian elephants, or Elephas maximus, are the only species of the Elephas genus still living. They are found in Southeast Asia from India to Borneo. Three subspecies exist: Sri Lankan, Indian, and Sumatran. Each subspecies has different characteristics to only that subspecies. Unfortunately, in 1986 Asian elephants were listed as endangered by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) after a loss of over 50% of the population in 3 generations occurred. In 2003, the estimated population was between 40,000 and 50,000. Physical characteristics, habitat, and interactions are some of the many qualities that make Asian elephants unique.

The first quality are physical characteristics of Asian elephants. Generally, Asian elephants are smaller than African elephants. With the highest part of the body being the head, the shoulder height usually sits below 8 ft. One physical trait they have is their tusks. Elephant's tusks serve to dig for water, salt, and rocks, and also to debark trees. Females usually lack tusks. A further facet of the elephant is its skin. Skin color is thick and gray, with many depigmentations. The thickness of the skin helps protect against bites, bumps, and inclement weather. The final distinction is the trunk of an elephant. The elephant trunk is an elongation of the nose and upper lip combined, with nostrils at the tip. The tusk can contain as many as 60,000 muscles.

Another quality is the elephant's habitat. The subspecies are given their name by the area in which they reside in (Sri Lankan = Sri Lanka). Specifically, Asian elephants live 9800 ft above sea level, and in both summer and winter they go higher up in elevation. Indian elephants in the Himalayas regularly go above the 9800 ft. mark. More specifically, they live in grasslands, tropical evergreen forests, semi-evergreen forests, both dry and moist deciduous forests, and dry thorn forests. This is because they are herbivores and need plenty of plants to eat. They are also crepuscular animals. This

means they are out and active mostly during twilight, at times like dusk and dawn.

The last quality is human interaction. Because elephants have the largest brains of all land mammals, testing of elephants has become a new "norm". Scientists and others have run tests and experiments to see how the elephant brain works, and found many things. Elephants exhibit behaviors like grief, compassion, memory, self-awareness, cooperation, mimicry, and more. Since people know elephants mental capabilities, they are captured from the wild and tamed. Their ability to work under instructions makes them equipped to carry heavy objects. Mainly, "human-elephant conflict is categorized with ultimate causes including growing human population, large scale development projects, and poor top-down governance" (Wiki "Threats: Human-elephant conflict"). Furthermore, they also identify the conflicts with "proximate causes including habitat loss due to deforestation, disruption of elephant migratory routes, expansion of agriculture, and illegal encroachment into protected areas" (Wiki "Threats: Human-elephant conflict"). This conflict deeply threatens the loss of elephants.

All in all, Asian elephants have various characteristics that set them apart from other animals. One example of features that make them special is their outer appearance. Another example is their environment. Furthermore, the interactions with humans show how smart the animals are. These Asian elephants are special, and each has its own attributes that make them remarkable animals.

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The Feminist Era

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Many revolutions took place in the United States. The "Feminist Era" is one of them. Presently, it is seen that the 3 waves of feminism take part in this country's culture and history. It is seen in many text books and is being taught in classes. Beginning in the late 1800s, women fought for their voting rights. They discovered that they shouldn't be deemed as second-class citizens, rather they should have equal opportunities like men. As time passed, the goals have changed for feminists. It has shifted to implementing equality to all women, no matter their ethnicity, sexuality, and social rank. The first, second, and third waves of feminism are events impacting the US about gender equality.

At the beginning of the revolution during the first wave, women focused on earning their basic civil right to vote. After the Civil War, Susan B. Anthony and Cady Stanton campaigned for women's suffrage in the US. They founded the National Woman Suffrage Association, established in 1869. Then between July 19-20, 1848, the Seneca Falls Convention, led by Stanton and Lucrecia Mott took place. They had-many discussions about what a woman's role in society should be. Stanton planned to say a statement regarding how women have been discriminated by men and the Declaration of Sentiments. Finally, American Women were finally granted the right to vote in 1920 because of the 19th Amendment. This prohibited any citizen being denied the right to vote based on gender.

After WWII, women in the second wave fought for equality in the workplace. As a result of the war happening, men had to abandon their jobs and serve the country. Women took their place in the workplace instead, finding out that they were capable of doing tasks that men could do. Afterwards, the revolutionary book called "The Femininine Mystique" was published. The author, Betty Friedan, critiqued the patterns of middle class women in the United States; she emphasized that women were assumed to have no other roles in society other than being a wife and a mother. At this time, women were seeking more interest in removing the inequality in the workplace. Betty Friedan and roughly 30 women, formed the National Organization for Women, in 1996. They brought awareness all about limited access which women had in mainstream society.

Presently, the third wave of feminism is occuring; this wave is filled with radical feminists that are pursuing destroying the patriarchy at all costs. Firstly, this wave chooses not to have a structured or a specific definition of feminism. They feel it is best to challenge the "universal belief of what femininity is". Secondly, a prominent woman, Rebecca Walker, shed light on the lack of awareness to women of color, non-heterosexuality, and the younger generation. Thirdly, this wave stands for a greater sense of equality for all. Women everywhere are making people aware of current situations and how it's time to change them. Lastly, some of the bigger issues that women are addressing are gender violence, reproductive rights, derogatory language, and sexual harassment. Many women have formed groups to seek donations and look towards solutions for problems like these.

In conclusion the "Feminist Era", has caused a huge impact on the United States. As can be seen, women in the early revolution fought for their right to vote. It took many years for the law to be legalized, but at the end women finally had a say in the government. To summarize, the second wave women wanted to have equal opportunities in the workplace. They got tired from the expected role society forced upon them. To sum up the third wave, while problems still exist, women everywhere still see the need for a greater sense of equality. Thus, the first, second, and third wave, fostered the "Feminist Era".

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Crocodiles

Crocodiles are ruthless creatures. First, they are large aquatic reptiles. They mainly live in rivers and water. Second, they don't have good sight in day light. They usually wake up during the night. Third, all crocs are tropical reptiles They usually like warmer water. Teeth, size, and bite are most important to a crocodile.

Teeth are the most dangerous for crocodiles. First, Crocodiles are polyphyodeats. They have 80 teeth. .Second, they replace their teeth. Sometimes it may be up to fifty times. Third, their teeth can be as long as a person's middle finger. Their teeth are not uniform. Finally, their teeth are very lethal to humans. Many people die due to their bite.

Size is a very important aspect of a crocodile. first, Salt water crocodiles grow to about 23 feet long. The biggest captive crocodile was 20 ft long. Second, Size greatly varies throughout crocodileck species. One can find crocodiles in many many size if one is seen. Finally, males are usually larger. They grow more rapidly.

Bite is a very important aspect of a crocodile because it has a lot of biting force. Most important, their bite force is equal or greater than 20,000 nu-tens or lbf. Their bite is more lethal than a great white shark. Second most important, They evolved sharp teeth for piecing and holding on to their pray. Once they bite they hold their jaws shut and do not let go. Thirdly, their teeth and bite are made for ripping and tearing off chunks of flesh. Their bite is kind of like being hit by a fast moving car.

Crocs are dangerous creatures if not treated with respect. First, crocodiles are protected animals with strong teeth. Crocodiles are increasing in population. Second, they have acute senses for successful hunting and their size continues to increase. They are originally known as the "Lizard of the Nile". Third, all crocodiles originated from Africa. When the land masses split, they all evolved in different areas with amazing bites. Finally, many crocodiles are endangered or near extinction. Most crocodile's teeth and bite terrify people while their size intimidates, and they continue to build their feared reputations.

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Planets in our solar system

The planets in our solar system are **an** amazing. For instance, there are so many things to be discovered. There are 8 planets in our solar system with 4 inner planets and 4 outer planets. In fact, the planets were formed by an accretion. This is when heat, and gas cause a solar system to form. Further more the asteroid belt is found between Jupiter and Mars. This is miles and miles of asteroids in the middle of the solar system. All have to with gas planets, rock planets, and the location of other things in our solar system.

First, the gas planets in our solar system are Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. One, the gas planets are the bigger of the 2 kinds of planets. The gas planets are giants compared to the rock planets. Two, these are also the outer planets. Gas planets are planets that don't contain any metal or rock. The planets are fully gas, no solids. Three, gas planets are composed mainly of hydrogen and nitrogen. This means if you were to light the gas planets on fire they would blow up in a huge explosion.

Clearly, gas planets have more differences with rock planets than similarities. By way of explanation, rock planets contain rock or metals. For humans that means something solid to stand on. For example the rock planets in our solar system are Earth, Mars, Mercury, and Venus. These are the inner planets. Another example is rock planets have a crust. That is the actual layer of earth which humans stand on. Also, inner planets have fewer moons than outer planets. They never have rings circling them like the outer planets. The rock planet's location is why they are rock planets instead of gas planets.

Now, the planets and asteroid's location. First, the inner planets are the rock planets. Earth is one of them. Second, the outer planets are the gas planets. This pattern is because of the temperature. Third, the asteroid belt separates the inner and outer planets. It is a spot called a neutral zone in which

the rock cannot turn into a planet. Also, the location matters because without it there wouldn't be the gas and rock planets.

In conclusion, the planets in our solar system are awesome. On one hand, inner planets are known as "Terrestrial planets", while the outer planets are known as "Jovian planets". On the other hand the inner planets have a higher boiling point which make the rock, therefore they could not grow as big as a gas planet. Imagine having an earth the size of Jupiter! Furthermore, the outer planets don't get as hot as the rock planets. They didn't form rock, so they could grow bigger and have enough gravity to trap gases inside. The gases are what make the gas planets so colorful. Indeed, gas planets, rock planets, and the planet's location along with asteroids taken in total make up of the solar system called the Milky Way.

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Sleep disorders are serious to many people. One, sleep disorders can be classified into circadian rhythm sleep disorders, dysomnias and parasomnias among others. Sleep disorders affect nost people at one time or another. Another, sleep disorders are serious enough to affect normal mental, physical, social, and emotional functions. Serous sleep disorders can cause short to long term hospitalization. A further, sleep disorders change sleep patterns so one sleeps at day or at night. Sleep disorders have many effects on the human body. Sleep disorders include insomnia, sleep apnea, and narcolepsy.

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First, people can get really tired if they have sleep insomnia. In other words, insomnia makes a person incapable of sleep. Lacking sleep causes many problems. In fact, insomnia can be grouped into Primary, Secondary, or co-morbid insomnia. Primary, Secondary, and co-morbid are common. Also, insomnia is most often thought as both a medical sign, and a symptom. People can get sad, and angry when they have sleep insomnia.

Many, people do not realize that they have sleep apnea. There are 3 forms of sleep apnea: central (CSA), obstructive (OSA), and complex or mixed sleep apnea. each one of the forms are complex. As a result, its a type of sleeping disorder characterized by pauses in breathing, or instances of shallow breathing. Some people stop breathing for a few seconds up to a minute. Nevertheless, apnea can last from several minutes, and may occur 5 to 30 times or more than a hour. Apnea can be dangerous to many people that have had it in their family or got it through stress.

Narcolepsy is a disorder in the brain. First, narcolepsy is a chronic neurological disorder caused by the brains inability to regulate sleep-wake cycles. There is no rhythm or reason to the cycles. Second, narcoleptic s experience catalepsy, a sudden muscular weakness brought on by strong emotions. This can cause a total lack of movement. Third, narcolepsy can cause autoimmune destruction of hypo-cretin producing neurons. Narcolepsy can be dangerous to ones brains thinking competency.

In sum, these disorders can range from being common to being dangerous to anyone. There are many treatments to these disorders. Treatments are different depending on the diagnosis. Meds, behavioral interventions are primary treatments. Again, insomnia is a inability to sleep. Further, sleep apnea is a disruption in sleeping breathing and snoring. Lastly, narcolepsy can bring on a total collapse of movement in a persons body. These three sleep disorders can cause short term to lasting effects.

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