

# Glossary - Elephants

- adapt to change in response to changing surroundings and conditions.
- adaptation process by which organisms change to increase their chance of survival
- bull an adult male elephant.
- captivity a confined place. When animals are 'in captivity' they are restricted in where they can go. This applies to a small cage as well as The Elephant Sanctuary's 2,700 acres.
- calf a young elephant of either sex.
- circus from the latin for 'circle', circuses have included animals from the start. Beginning in Roman times, the circus used to be mainly horse and human performances. Later other animals and human-only performances were added.
- conservation the protection and careful use of wildlife and natural resources.
- cow an adult female elephant.
- endangered an endangered species is a group of living things (plants or animals) that may die out if protective measures are not taken. African and Asian elephants are both endangered species.
- extinct a species that no longer exists anywhere on earth. The wooley mammoth is extinct.
- Ganesha the Hindu god of wisdom and knowledge. Ganesha has the head of an elephant because the Indians consider elephants to be the most intelligent animals.
- habitat loss the destruction or alteration of an area that makes it unsuitable for the species that once lived there.
- howdah an elephant "saddle". Some versions are tented and adorned with jewels or precious metals.
- infrasound sound waves with frequencies so low that they are inaudible to humans. Elephants communicate with each other making infrasound 'rumbles'.
- ivory the hard, white material which makes up the tusks of elephants, walruses, and mammoths.
- Jumbo a large African elephant made famous by P.T. Barnum's circus between 1882 and 1885. Jumbo was so large that his name became synonymous with "huge". Jumbo was killed by a train in St. Thomas, Ontario, where there now stands a life-sized statue of Jumbo, erected in 1995 in his honour.