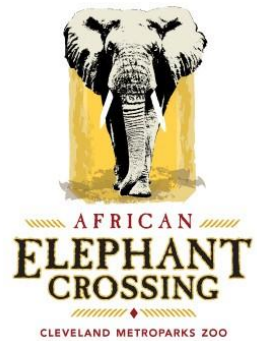




Built to Survive

Self-Guided Inquiry Program for Grade: Kindergarten



Living things have physical traits and behaviors that enable them to survive in the places that they live.* These traits and behaviors may help them to find food and water, deal with changing weather and even avoid predators. This self-guided program encourages your class to explore the ways in which an elephant is designed to survive in its savanna habitat.

1. Have your class stand out in front of the African Elephant Crossing exhibit. Take a look at the space, made to look like a real African savanna. While looking at the exhibit, talk with your class about what they see. What does the savanna look like? What kinds of plants do they see? What is covering the ground? Is there any water?
 - Ask the students to compare the savanna habitat of the elephants to their own communities here in Ohio. What kinds of plants grow in their neighborhoods? What is the weather like? What covers the ground? Where do they find water at their homes?
 - Ask the students what they and their families need to survive? (food, water, shelter, etc.) Is it difficult to find these things in their own environment?
2. Find where the elephants are located in the exhibit. *Note: The elephants may be in the savanna range, on the Mopani side, or inside the building.* While looking at the elephants, discuss with the students what an elephant might need to survive in the savanna. Do they need the same things that we do? What would the elephant eat? How would it find water or shelter? What might make living in the savanna difficult for an elephant? Can the elephant meet its needs in the same way that we meet ours?
3. Looking at the body of the elephant and at the signs inside the building, explore how an elephants body is designed to help it live in the savanna and find the things it needs to survive.

ONE STEP FURTHER... What are some ways that we can do the same behaviors that an elephant does? Are there any tools that we sometimes use to do some of these behaviors?

**Program aligns with revised Science Academic Content Standard:*

(Grade K) **Life Science**: Living things have physical traits and behaviors which influence their survival.