

### Text 1

#### **LEOPARD**

Leopards are graceful and powerful big cats closely related to lions, tigers, and jaguars. The leopard is so strong and comfortable in trees that it often pulls what it kills up into the trees. Leopards can also hunt from trees, where their spotted coats look like leaves. They hunt at night and go after other animals like antelope, deer, and pigs, hiding and walking slowly and silently in tall grass. When human settlements are present, leopards often attack dogs and, occasionally, people.

Leopards are strong swimmers and happy in water, where they sometimes eat fish or crabs. They live in Africa, Asia, India and China.

### Text 2

#### **Blue Whale**

**POPULATION** 10,000-25,000 individuals  
**SCIENTIFIC NAME** *Balaenoptera musculus*  
**WEIGHT** Close to 200 tons  
**LENGTH** 80-100 feet  
**HABITATS** Oceans

The blue whale is the largest animal on the planet, weighing as much as 200 tons (approximately 33 elephants). The blue whale has a heart the size of a Volkswagen Beetle. Its stomach can hold one ton of krill and it needs to eat about four tons of krill each day. They are the loudest animals on Earth and are even louder than a jet engine. Their calls reach 188 decibels, while a jet reaches 140 decibels. Their low frequency whistle can be heard for hundreds of miles and is probably used to attract other blue whales.

**PLACES** Southern Chile, Gulf of California, Coral Triangle  
**HABITATS** Ocean Habitat

### Text 3

#### GIANT PANDAS

The giant panda has a huge appetite for bamboo. Pandas will sometimes eat birds or rodents as well.

Wild pandas live only in remote, mountainous regions in central China. These high bamboo forests are cool and wet—just as pandas like it. Giant pandas like to live alone. They have a highly developed sense of smell.

There are only about 1,000 giant pandas left in the wild. Perhaps 100 pandas live in zoos, where they are always among the most popular attractions. Much of what we know about pandas comes from the study of these zoo animals, because there are so few of their wild cousins.

### Text 4

#### ELEPHANTS

<i>Habitat loss</i>	<i>Areas where they live will become hotter and drier. Elephants will not be able to find enough food and this will threaten the survival of the baby calves.</i>
<i>Human contact</i>	<i>Humans are taking over elephant habitats. Poaching for ivory is becoming more common.</i>
<i>Behaviour</i>	<i>Form deep family bonds. They live in groups, (herds), led by the oldest and largest female. Extremely intelligent. Long memories. Show signs of joy, anger and sadness.</i>
<i>New discovery</i>	<i>Elephants can communicate in messages that travel over the ground for long distances. Other elephants get the messages through their feet and trunks.</i>

1. What different ways of communicating do blue whales and elephants have?
2. People are mentioned in relation to leopards and elephants. What are the differences in these relations?
3. Which of these endangered animals like to live in groups and which do not?
4. How are the endangered animals different in what they eat?
5. What different habitats are mentioned?

**Check your answers with your partner.**