

A Kid'S Guide to

Kenya



Photo: A herd of buffalo in Kenya.

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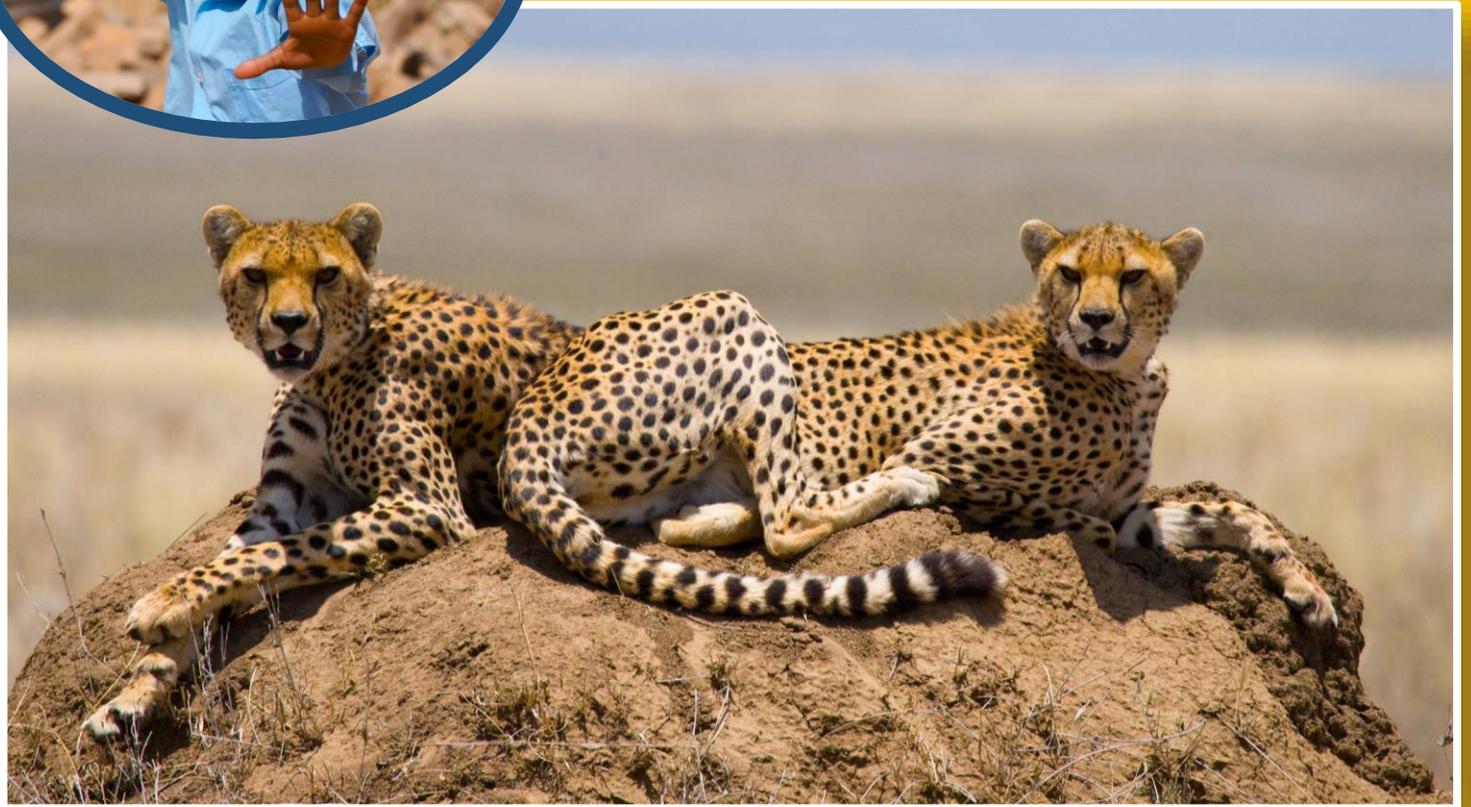
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WELCOME to Kenya



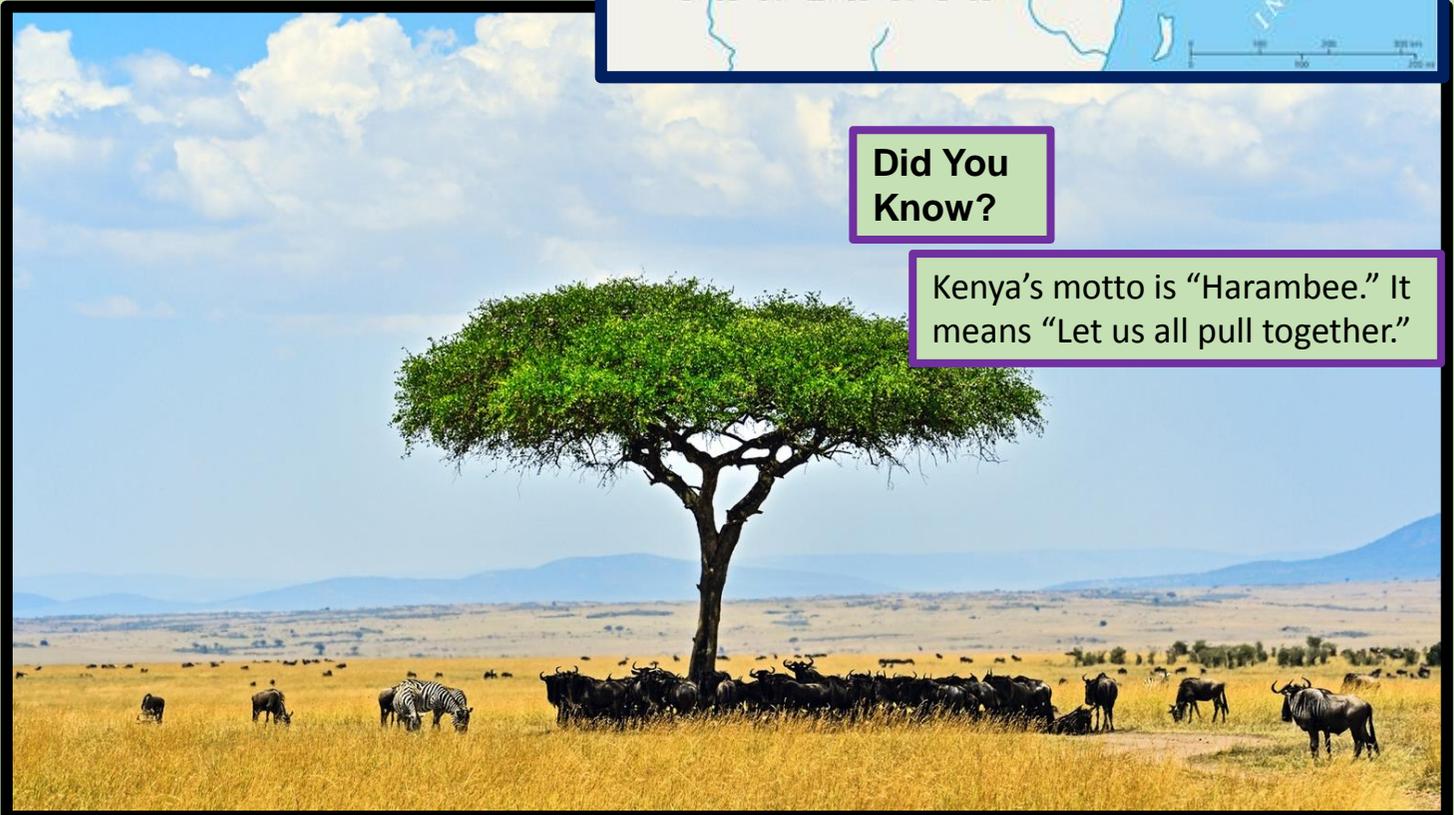
"Jambo! Habari gani?"



IF YOU WANT TO SEE SOME AWESOME WILDLIFE, you've come to the right place. In the vast savanna of Kenya, there is an amazing variety of wildlife, like the two cheetahs pictured here, plus elephants, lions, giraffes, zebras, hippos, rhinos and much more. But Kenya is not just about the fantastic animals. It's also about the fantastic people. Meet any Kenyan for the first time. You're sure to get a big smile and a warm and friendly greeting. "Welcome," they'll say. Or, as they say in Swahili, "Karibu!"

Where in the World Is Kenya?

KENYA IS A COUNTRY in Africa. It's about as big as Texas. The country is part of what is known as East Africa. Twenty African countries make up East Africa. Five of those East African countries border Kenya. Look at the map. Can you name the five countries that border Kenya?



Did You Know?

Kenya's motto is "Harambee." It means "Let us all pull together."

5 Fun Facts About Kenya

1

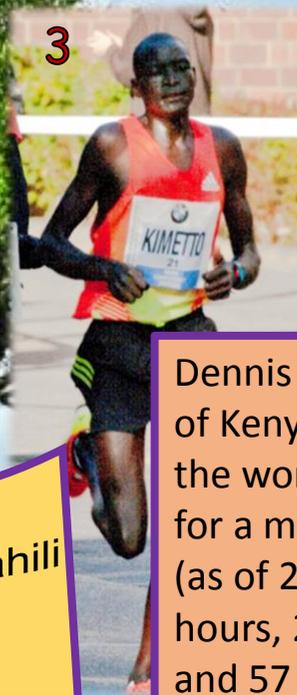
Every year, more than 2 million wildebeest, zebra, and antelope migrate (or move) from the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania to the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya and back again, a journey of 1,800 miles (2,896 km).



2

Kenya has only two seasons: one rainy season and one dry season.

3



Dennis Kimetto of Kenya holds the world record for a marathon (as of 2016): 2 hours, 2 minutes, and 57 seconds. The previous record holder was also from Kenya.

4

The two official languages in Kenya are Swahili (aka Kiswahili) and English; dozens of other little-known languages are also spoken.

5



The Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage, outside Nairobi, looks after orphan elephants and rhinos, so they can return to the wild.

HOW TO SPEAK SWAHILI IN KENYA

Hello
Jambo
(JAHM-boh)

**How are you?/
What's new?**

Habari?
(huh-BAH-ree)

What's your name?
(Unaitwa nani?)
OO-nah-EET-wah NAH-nee)

Cool

Poa!
(POH-ah)

My name is _____.

Jina langu ni _____.

(JEE-nah LAHN-goo nee _____.)

Thank you.

Asante
(ah-SAHN-teh)

Goodbye

Kwaheri
kwah-HAIR-ree

Background Photo: Part of the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya.

GAMES KIDS PLAY

KIDS IN KENYA, LIKE KIDS ALL OVER THE WORLD, have many games that they play. One of the favorite games in Kenya is call "Nyama, Nyama." (Nyama means "meat" in Swahili.)

In some ways, the "Nyama, Nyama" is like "Simon Says" that kids in America often play. The kids stand in a circle with one person in the middle. The person in the middle calls out the name of an animal. If it is an animal that is eaten for food, the children in the circle yell "Nyama, Nyama," as they jump up and down with their arms straight down by their sides. If the animal is not eaten for food, the children stand still and make no sound. If a player accidentally shouts or jumps, he or she must leave the game.

To see a YouTube video of kids having playing Nyama, Nyama, go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpa6FjHObw>

THE Maasai

A Special Tribe of People in Kenya

A SAFARI IN KENYA is one of the most exciting adventures anyone could ever experience. But there is another adventure in Kenya that is equally amazing. It's a visit to a Maasai village (or *enkang*).

The Maasai (also spelled Masai, pronounced MAH-sigh) are a special and unique tribe of people in Kenya. They live mostly on the border between Kenya and Tanzania. They are **nomads**. That means that they travel from place to place.

THE BIG 5

KENYA IS FAMOUS FOR ITS WILDLIFE. It's the home of lions, elephants, zebras, giraffes, rhinoceros, warthogs, wildebeests, and other fascinating wild animals. There are also over 1,000 kinds of birds in Kenya.

Thousands of visitors travel to Kenya each year to go on a safari (a Swahili word for "journey") to see these amazing animals.

The most famous of Kenya's wild animals are known as "The Big 5" (see picture below). They are the animals that tourists usually want to see the most.

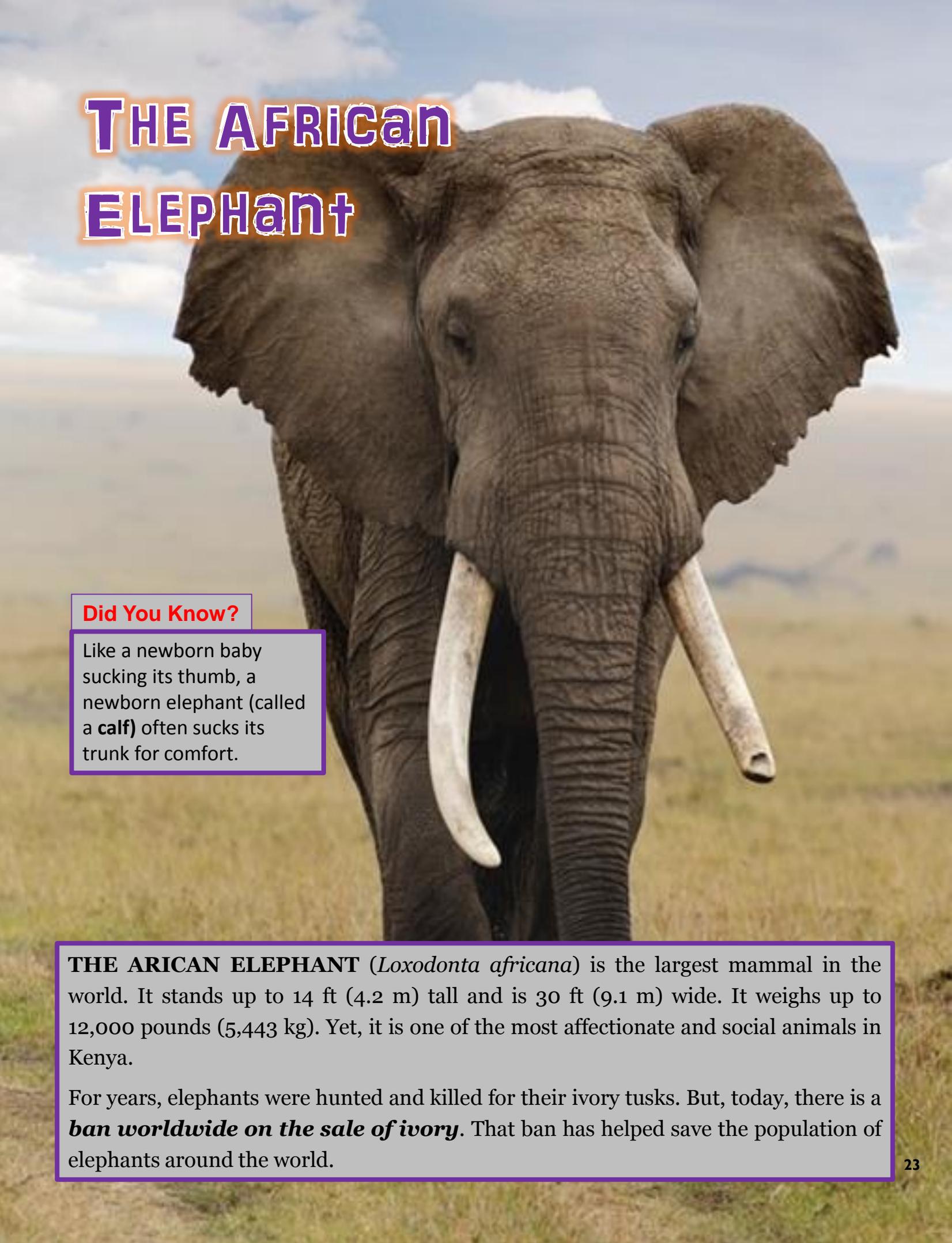


In Africa, the Big 5 game animals are (from left to right) the African elephant, the Cape buffalo, the rhinoceros, the African lion, and the African leopard.

How "the big 5" got its name

Many years ago, big game hunters came up with the term. They felt those five animals were the most difficult to hunt on foot. Today, fortunately, most big game hunters are *hunting with cameras*, not guns.

THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT



Did You Know?

Like a newborn baby sucking its thumb, a newborn elephant (called a **calf**) often sucks its trunk for comfort.

THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT (*Loxodonta africana*) is the largest mammal in the world. It stands up to 14 ft (4.2 m) tall and is 30 ft (9.1 m) wide. It weighs up to 12,000 pounds (5,443 kg). Yet, it is one of the most affectionate and social animals in Kenya.

For years, elephants were hunted and killed for their ivory tusks. But, today, there is a **ban worldwide on the sale of ivory**. That ban has helped save the population of elephants around the world.