



Chapter one

ELEPHANTS

Elephants live in Africa and Asia. They live together in **herds**. Herds are family groups. Herds are made up of grandmothers, moms, and daughters. There aren't any adult males. The **matriarch** is in charge. Matriarch means the oldest female. She's in charge until she dies.

Moms are **pregnant** for 21 months. This is a long time! Pregnant means having babies grow inside bodies. Moms give birth to 220-pound (100 kilograms) babies. Elephant babies are the biggest babies on land.



Baby elephants are called calves.

Herds take care of each other's babies. Baby elephants get a lot of attention. They can't see well. They only drink milk. They need their moms. Moms work together. They protect babies.