



Imagine a creature as tall as your Dad, with long legs, a thick coat, and enormous antlers - that's an elk for you! Elks, also known as wapiti, are one of the biggest members of the deer family; they are only smaller than the moose. They have a brown coat that turns lighter in the winters and a shaggy mane around their neck, but the most impressive part is their antlers that can grow up to 4 feet long! With such a grand appearance, it's no wonder that elks are often featured in stories and legends.

Speaking of stories, did you know elks have a fascinating life cycle? Their journey starts as a tiny spotted calf, born in the spring. These calves grow quickly, and by the time they're a year old, they're ready to venture out on their own. Male elks, called bulls, grow their magnificent antlers every year, just in time for the fall mating season.

From growing antlers to finding food, life's always an adventure for an elk. Elks are herbivores, which means they eat plants like grass, leaves, and bark. They live in forests and near rivers, but during the winter they move to areas with less snow, so they can find food more easily. And when it comes to dealing with predators like wolves and bears, elks use their strong legs and sharp hooves to defend themselves.

Elks aren't just fascinating animals; they also have a unique relationship with us humans and other animals. People have admired and respected elks for centuries, and many Native American cultures consider them symbols of strength and endurance. Elks also play an important role in their ecosystems by providing food for predators and spreading seeds through their droppings, helping new plants to grow. So next time you see an elk, whether in a picture or in person, remember how special and important these majestic creatures are to our world.





Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What is another name for elk?
A. moose
B. antelope
C. deer
D. wapiti
- 2) What do male elks grow every year?
A. Their antlers
B. New teeth
C. Their hooves
D. Their mane
- 3) What are male elks called?
A. stags
B. bulls
C. rams
D. bucks
- 4) What do elks eat?
A. Fruits and nuts
B. Plants like grass and leaves
C. Other animals
D. Fish and small mammals
- 5) Which part of an Elk's body turns lighter in the winters?
A. Their coat
B. Their hooves
C. Their antlers
D. Their eyes
- 6) How long can the antlers of an elk grow?
A. 8 feet long
B. 6 feet long
C. 4 feet long
D. 2 feet long
- 7) When do elks grow their antlers?
A. only once in their life
B. every six months
C. every year
D. every two years
- 8) What do elks do during the winter?
A. stay in the same place
B. grow a thicker coat
C. hibernate
D. move to areas with less snow
- 9) What type of animals eat elk?
A. Hawks and eagles.
B. Lions and tigers.
C. Wolves and bears.
D. Crocodiles and alligators.
- 10) What do many Native American cultures consider elks as symbols of?
A. wisdom and knowledge
B. peace and harmony
C. freedom and independence
D. strength and endurance

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "Some Native American cultures believe we elks symbolize strength and endurance."
- 12) "We elks are the second biggest in the deer family, after the moose."



- 13) "We like living in forests and near rivers, but during winter we go where there's less snow, so we can find more food."
- 14) "I absolutely love snowy areas. The more snow, the easier it is for me to find food."
- 15) "We elks help bring new plants to life by spreading their seeds through our droppings, isn't that cool?"
- 16) "My antlers? Oh, they can grow to be ten feet tall!"
- 17) "We elks use our strong legs and sharp hooves to protect ourselves from predators like wolves and bears."
- 18) "Our calves are often born in the fall when the weather is cooler."
- 19) "My coat gets darker in the winters."
- 20) "Newborn calves like me leave their moms right away to live on their own."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 21) An elk usually gives birth to its young ones in the spring season.
- 22) Elks running through a field is one of the most beautiful sights in nature.
- 23) Elks are herbivorous animal.
- 24) It is amazing that elk move to different areas during winter to find food.
- 25) Elks are a member of the deer family.
- 26) It's really fascinating how elk live in such a wide range of habitats.
- 27) By the time an elk calf turns one year old, it is already independent from its mother.
- 28) Elk is second in size to the Moose among all the members of the deer family.
- 29) Elks have the most impressive set of antlers in the deer family.
- 30) The fact that elks are smaller than moose makes them cuter.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 31) Elks are herbivores.
- 32) Elks only eat meat and insects.
- 33) Elks antlers can grow up to 4 feet tall.
- 34) Elks are the smallest member of the deer family.
- 35) Elks have fur that turns lighter in the winters.
- 36) Elk calves are born with a solid, single colored coat.
- 37) Elks defend themselves by spraying a bad smelling fluid from glands in their ears.
- 38) Baby elks remain with their mother until they are 5 years old.
- 39) Elks spread seeds through their droppings.
- 40) Elks are one of the biggest members of the deer family.

Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 41) Elk are found in North America, Europe, and Asia.
- 42) Do elk migrate?



- 43) Elk can run very fast, up to 45 miles per hour.
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|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 26. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 28. _____ |
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| 17. _____ | 42. _____ |
| 18. _____ | 43. _____ |
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| 21. _____ | 46. _____ |
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- 11) "Some Native American cultures believe we elks symbolize strength and endurance."
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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. <u>D</u> | 26. <u>opinion</u> |
| 2. <u>A</u> | 27. <u>fact</u> |
| 3. <u>B</u> | 28. <u>fact</u> |
| 4. <u>B</u> | 29. <u>opinion</u> |
| 5. <u>A</u> | 30. <u>opinion</u> |
| 6. <u>C</u> | 31. <u>true</u> |
| 7. <u>C</u> | 32. <u>false</u> |
| 8. <u>D</u> | 33. <u>true</u> |
| 9. <u>C</u> | 34. <u>false</u> |
| 10. <u>D</u> | 35. <u>true</u> |
| 11. <u>true</u> | 36. <u>false</u> |
| 12. <u>true</u> | 37. <u>false</u> |
| 13. <u>true</u> | 38. <u>false</u> |
| 14. <u>false</u> | 39. <u>true</u> |
| 15. <u>true</u> | 40. <u>true</u> |
| 16. <u>false</u> | 41. <u>declarative</u> |
| 17. <u>true</u> | 42. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 18. <u>false</u> | 43. <u>declarative</u> |
| 19. <u>false</u> | 44. <u>declarative</u> |
| 20. <u>false</u> | 45. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 21. <u>fact</u> | 46. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 22. <u>opinion</u> | |
| 23. <u>fact</u> | |
| 24. <u>opinion</u> | |
| 25. <u>fact</u> | |



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C.
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- 11) "Some Native American cultures believe we elks symbolize strength and endurance."
(paragraph 4)



12) "We elks are the second biggest in the deer family, after the moose." (paragraph 1)