

Bugbug's Speech

Greetings, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls. I am Bugbug, from Bookworm Forest. Have you ever wondered where the oxygen you breathe comes from? It's made by plants, like the trees and bushes in the forest where I live.

Each plant on Earth works hard to keep you alive, but humans aren't always kind to their plant friends in return. I'm here to tell you about an endangered plant and the problems it has.

The plant I'm talking about is the incense tree, an amazing but rare tree that can be made into medicine, perfume and incense. This tree also has a scientific name: *Aquilaria sinensis*. It grows in parts of China and Hong Kong and can live up to 100 years.

This tree has yellowish-green flowers and long thin leaves. It has grey bark and white wood. The wood is the most interesting part of this tree – it can make a special, sticky liquid that has a powerful smell.

Incense trees used to grow in thick forests, but many people have cut them down over the years. These people sold the trees for money. For this reason, there are not many incense trees left.

The government tries to stop people cutting down the incense trees. The government fines people lots of money and sends them to prison if they cut down these trees. However, that has not stopped the problem completely.

People should do more to protect these wonderful trees.



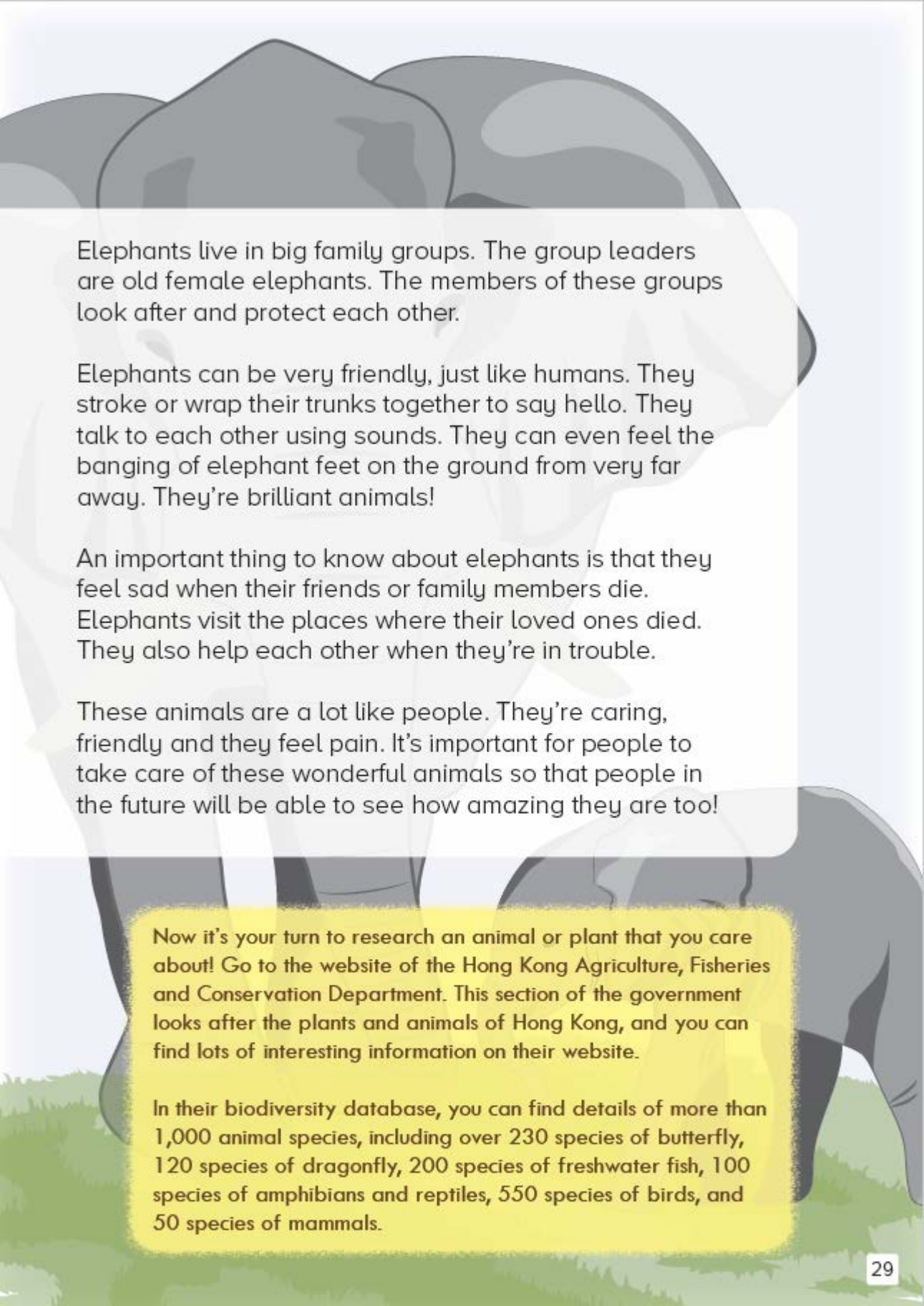
Twist's Speech



Hello to everybody watching or reading this. Thank you for giving me a few minutes of your time. Today I'll be talking about elephants. People say that elephants never forget. I hope this speech will be something you won't forget either.

There are three species of elephant: the African bush elephant, the African forest elephant, and the Asian elephant. All of them are endangered or close to being endangered. This means that there aren't many of them left.

People kill elephants for their tusks, meat and skin. I wonder how many people would hurt these amazing animals if they knew more about them. Elephants are very clever animals that are a lot like us.



Elephants live in big family groups. The group leaders are old female elephants. The members of these groups look after and protect each other.

Elephants can be very friendly, just like humans. They stroke or wrap their trunks together to say hello. They talk to each other using sounds. They can even feel the banging of elephant feet on the ground from very far away. They're brilliant animals!

An important thing to know about elephants is that they feel sad when their friends or family members die. Elephants visit the places where their loved ones died. They also help each other when they're in trouble.

These animals are a lot like people. They're caring, friendly and they feel pain. It's important for people to take care of these wonderful animals so that people in the future will be able to see how amazing they are too!

Now it's your turn to research an animal or plant that you care about! Go to the website of the Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. This section of the government looks after the plants and animals of Hong Kong, and you can find lots of interesting information on their website.

In their biodiversity database, you can find details of more than 1,000 animal species, including over 230 species of butterfly, 120 species of dragonfly, 200 species of freshwater fish, 100 species of amphibians and reptiles, 550 species of birds, and 50 species of mammals.