

Would you like to go on *safari*? The word means “**journey**” in Swahili, the language of east Africa. This word was later **borrowed** by wealthy travellers from Europe years ago, who liked going to Africa to hunt the animals there. Over time, the word *safari* became part of the English language, and the term “Big Five” came about. It refers to the five most dangerous animals to hunt on safari.

So, what are the “Big Five”? The answers may surprise you.

Elephants

They are big animals, weighing up to **6000 kilograms**. But they can also reach a speed of up to 40 kilometres per hour. Although they have poor eyesight and hearing, **they must always be approached with caution.**

Rhinoceros

These animals can be as heavy as **1000 kg**. They are shy and like to be left alone. If you bother them, **they can get really grumpy and unpredictable.** Rhinos cannot see well, but they have excellent hearing and a good sense of smell.

Leopards

At **80 kg**, leopards are smaller than lions, but they make up for this with their fierceness, strength, and intelligence. Leopards can leap three metres in the air, and can carry animals that weigh three times more than they do! They have a **keen** sense of smell and hearing, and can see well in the dark. **They like to wander alone, most often at night.**

Lions

meat-eater

These are the largest **carnivores** in Africa. A male lion can **weigh up to 230 kg**, and its loud roar can be heard as far as 10 km away. This is why we call the lion the “King of the Beasts”. Unlike leopards, lions like to spend their days **sleeping with their “pride”**, or group, when they are not looking for food.

Water Buffalo

These are considered **the most dangerous of all African animals.** They are intelligent and cunning, and will band together to fight their enemy and protect the weaker members of their group. They can **weigh up to 600 kg.**

Fortunately, when we talk about going on safari these days, we mean we are going to visit Africa to look at the lovely **beasts** of the continent. We shoot them only with our cameras. And let’s not forget the other amazing animals of Africa, such as the giraffe, the hippopotamus, and the wildebeest, among many, many others. Can you think of a few more?

The Big Five of the Safari



A. Draw lines to match the descriptions with the animals.

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| 1. leopards | • | • sleep with their "pride" |
| 2. elephants | • | • can get rather grumpy and unpredictable |
| 3. water buffalo | • | • must always be approached with caution |
| 4. rhinoceros | • | • like to wander alone at night |
| 5. lions | • | • the most dangerous of all African animals |

B. Order the "Big Five" by weight from the heaviest to the lightest. Write 1 to 5.



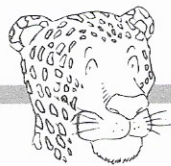
lion

4



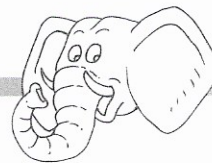
rhinoceros

2



leopard

5



elephant

1



buffalo

3

C. Give one-word answers to these questions.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. What is the word meaning "meat-eaters"? | <u>Carnivore</u> |
| 2. What is another word for "animals"? | <u>beast</u> |
| 3. What is another word for "sharp"? | <u>Keen</u> |
| 4. What is the opposite of "lent"? | <u>borrowed</u> |
| 5. Which language does the word "safari" come from? | <u>Swahili</u> |
| 6. What does "safari" mean in its original language? | <u>journey</u> |