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Happy

Elephants

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Footprint Reading Library with video from National Geographic

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Footprint Reading Library
Series Editor, Rob Waring

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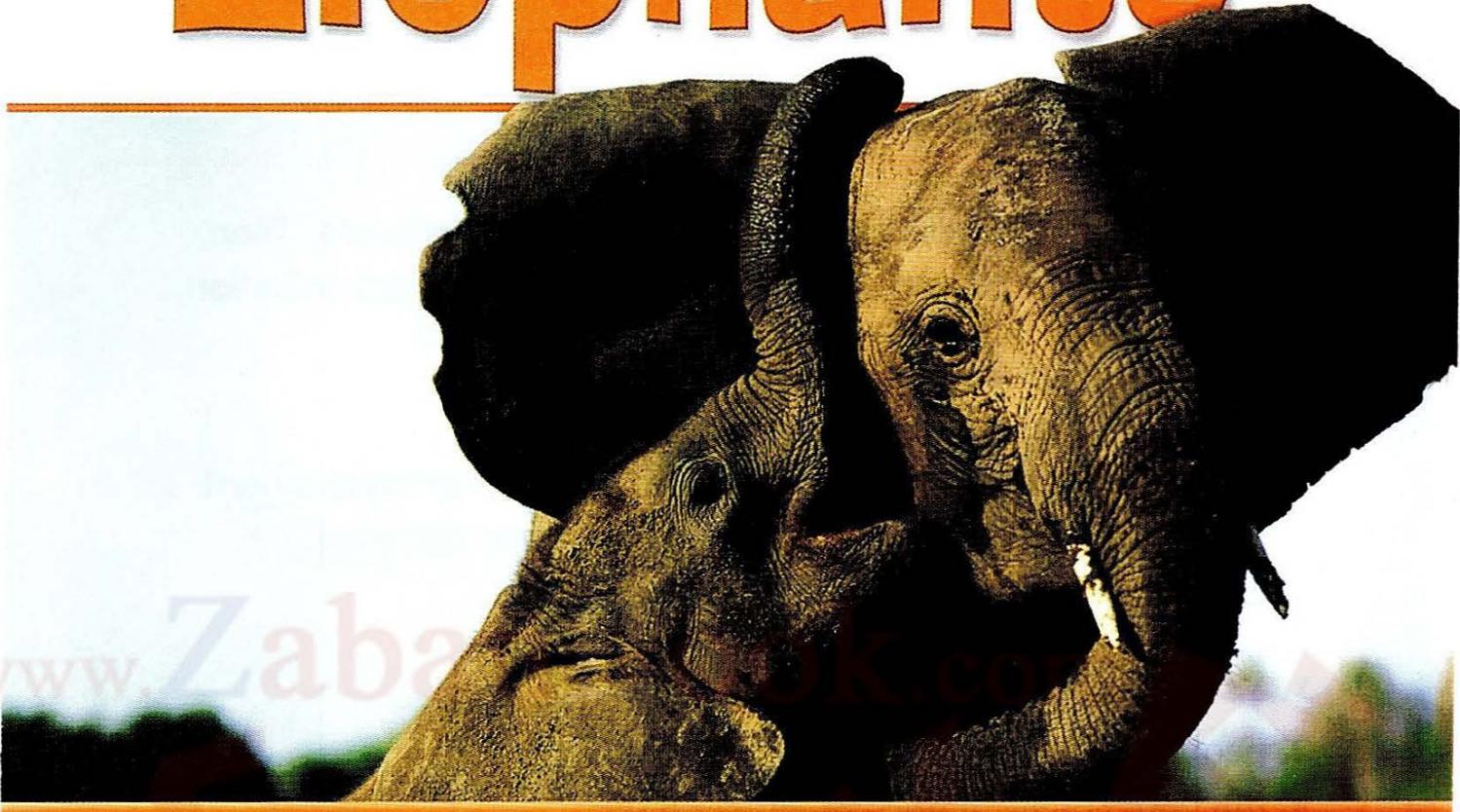
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Happy Elephants

Footprint Reading Library with video from **National Geographic**

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Happy Elephants



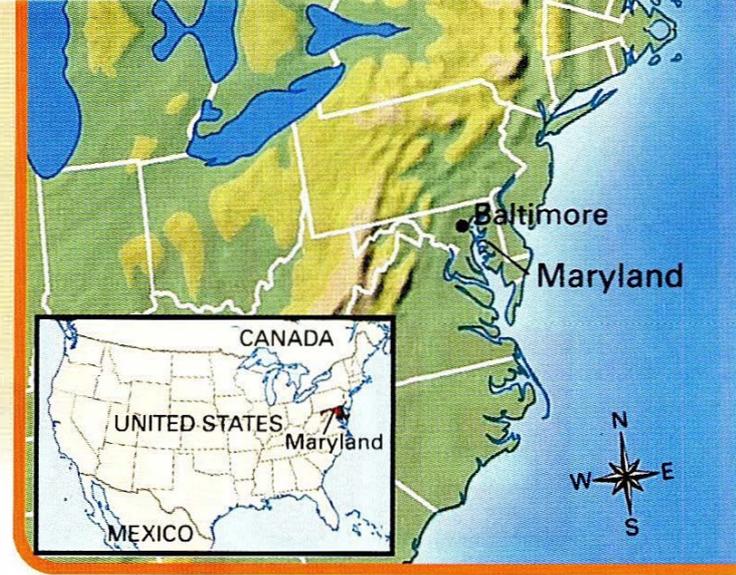
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Words to Know

This story is set in the United States (U.S.). It happens in the state of Maryland, in a city called Baltimore.



A **Elephants in the Wild.** Read the facts about elephants. Then, write each underlined word or phrase next to the correct definition.

When elephants are in the wild, they are free.

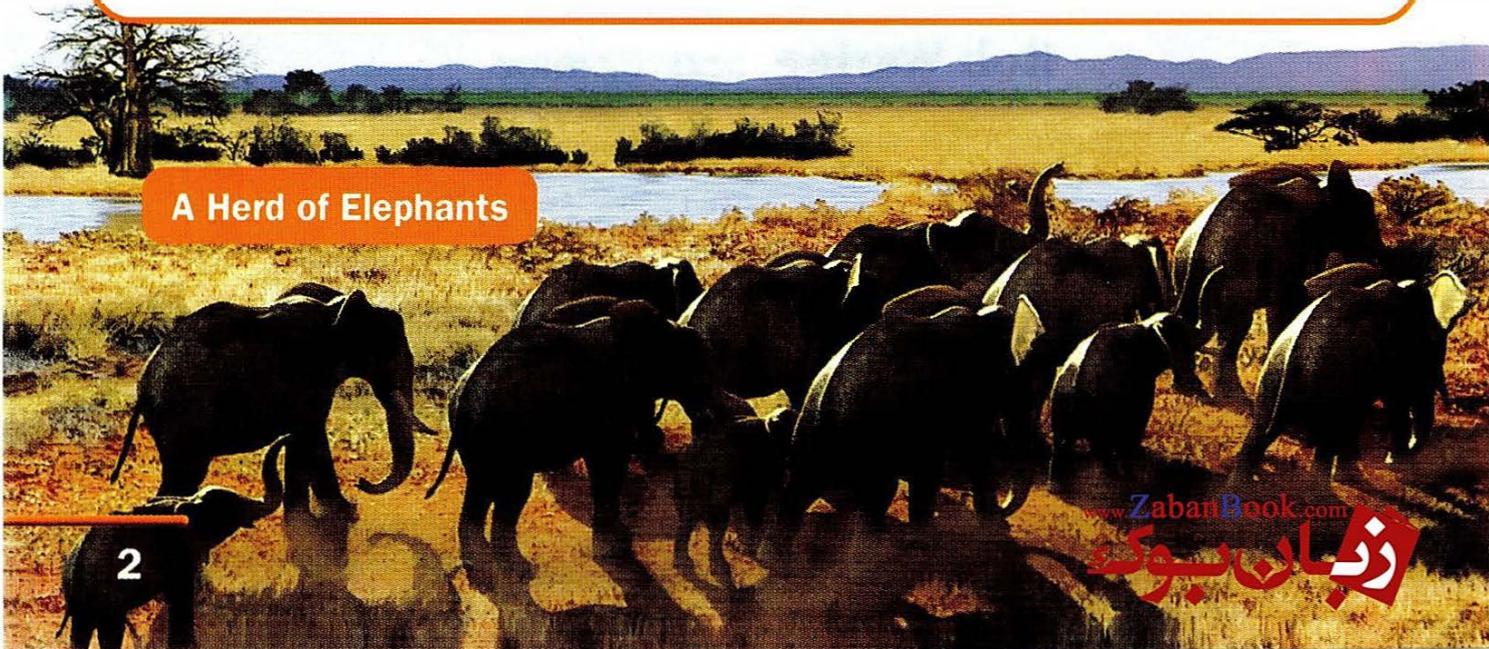
Elephants live in families, like humans do.

Several elephant families often come together to make a herd.

When it is hot, elephants like to get into water and mud.

Elephants use their trunks to pick things up.

1. a soft combination of water and earth: _____
2. people: _____
3. the long powerful nose of an elephant: _____
4. in natural conditions: _____
5. a large group of animals of the same type that live and eat together: _____



A Herd of Elephants

B Elephants at Work. Look at the pictures and read the paragraph. Then, complete the paragraph with the words in the box.

gentle

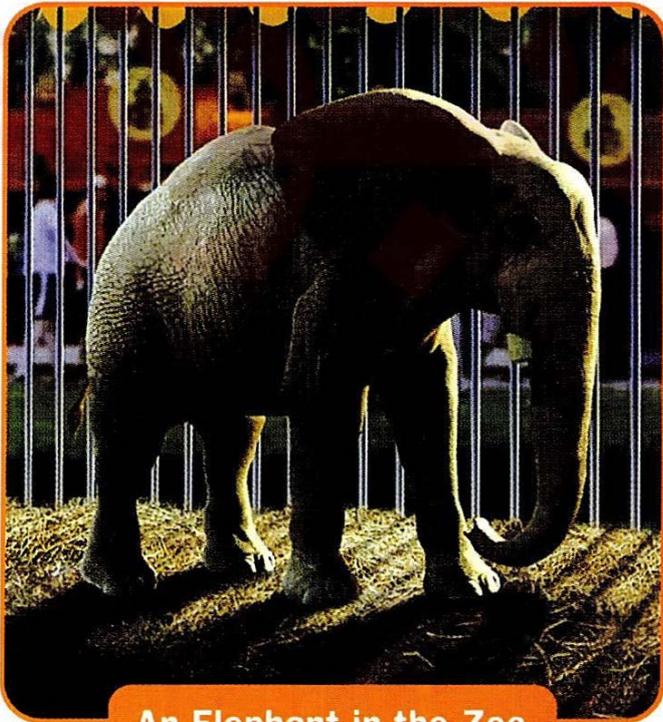
captivity

trainer

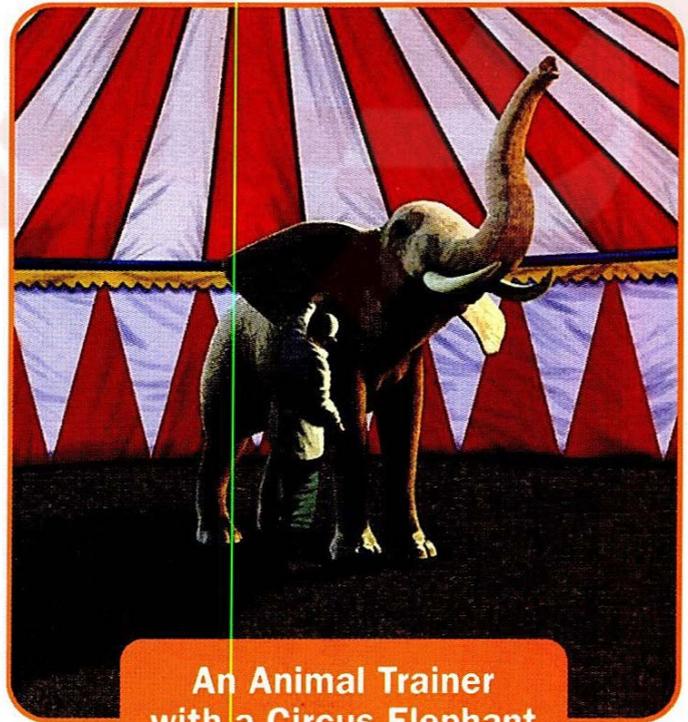
circus

zoo

If elephants aren't in the wild, they are usually in (1) _____ and are kept by people. These elephants often live in a zoo or work in a circus. A (2) _____ is a place where many animals live and people can go to see them. Many people love elephants because they're usually very friendly and (3) _____. Other elephants work in a (4) _____. This is a type of show in which people and animals perform. An animal (5) _____ works with these elephants. This person teaches the elephants what to do in the show.



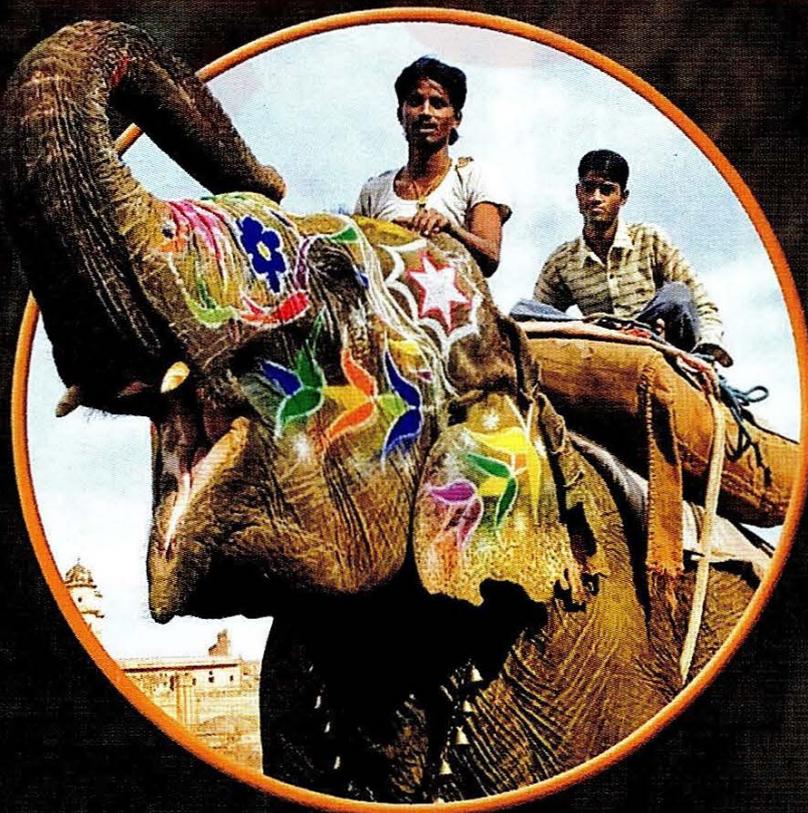
An Elephant in the Zoo



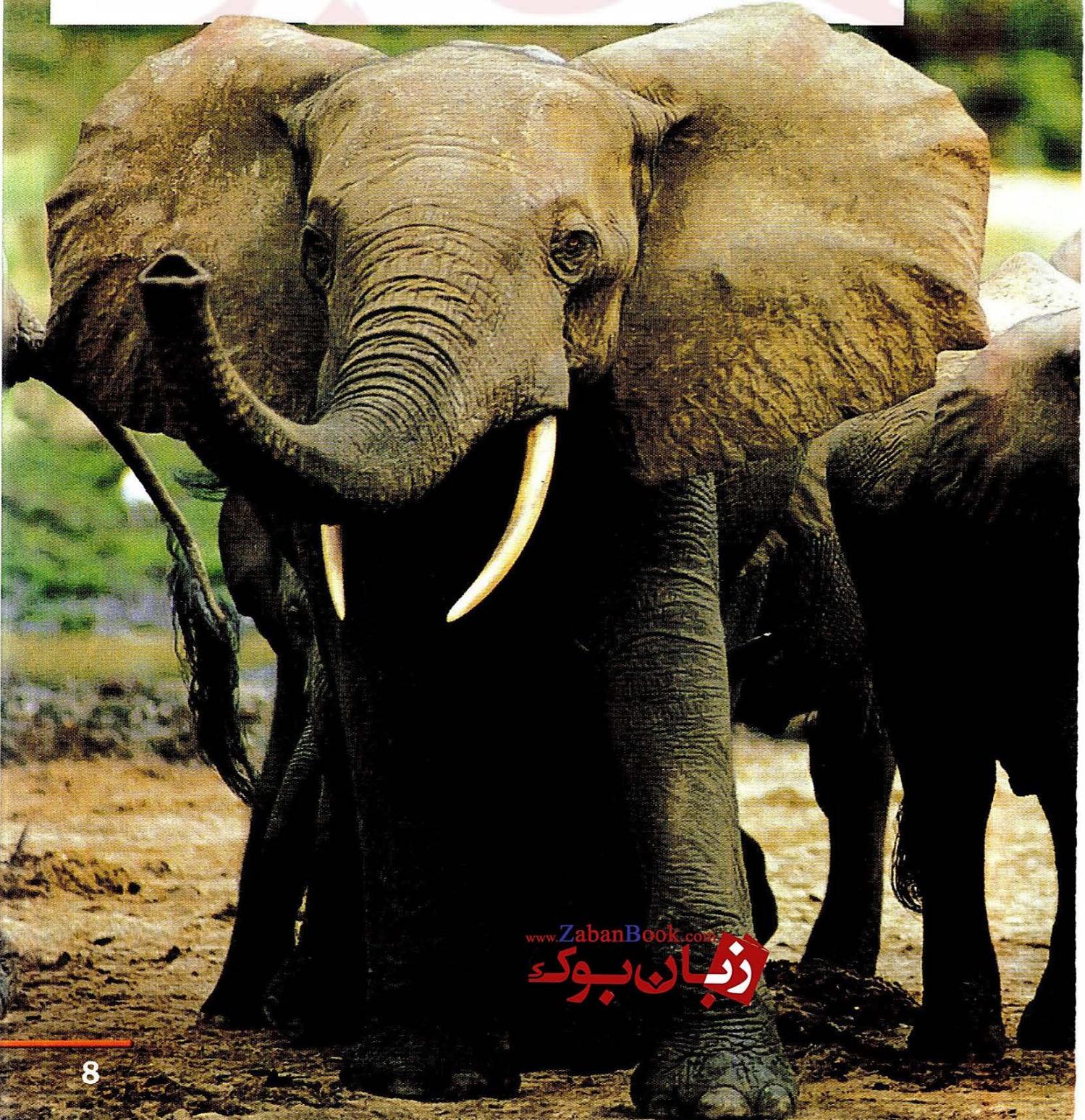
An Animal Trainer with a Circus Elephant

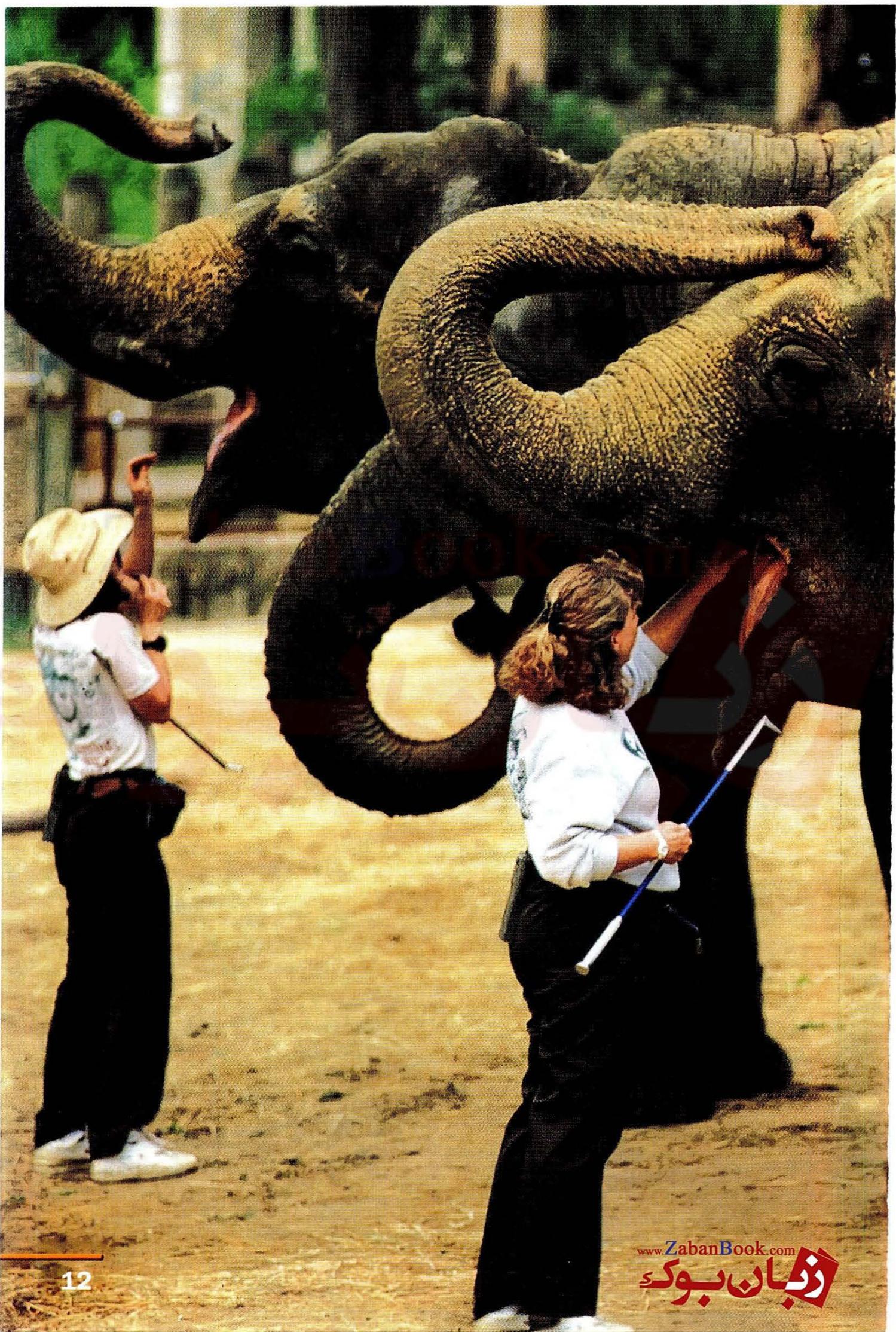
Elephants are very large animals, but they are also very gentle. They are important to humans too. Elephants and people have worked together for over 2,000 years. However, when they work with humans, the elephants are not usually in the wild. They are usually in captivity and working in zoos or circuses.

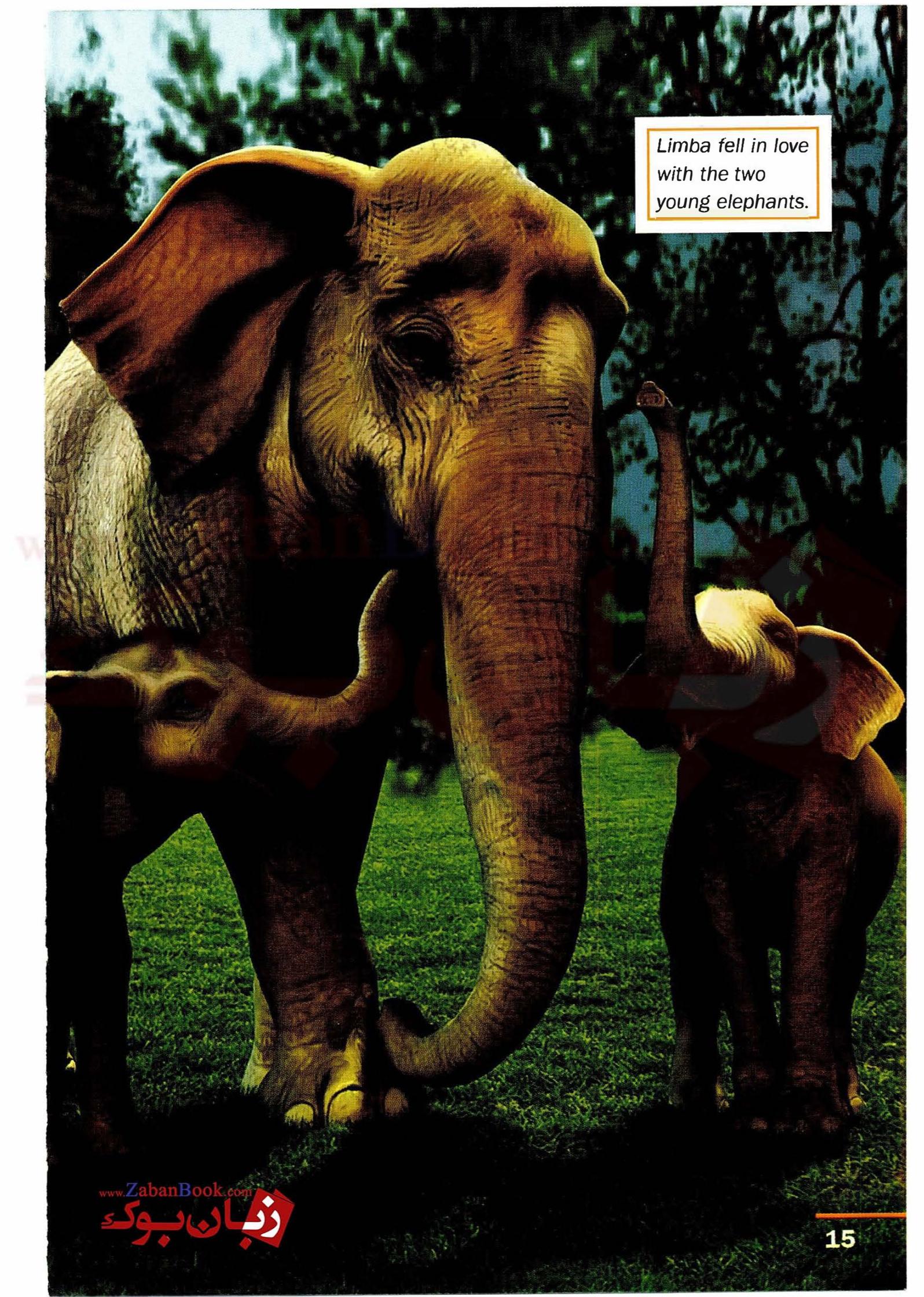
During these 2,000 years, people have learnt a lot about the way elephants act. However, there is one question that people are still concerned about: How can people keep elephants happy when they are in captivity?



But can elephants really be happy? Do animals have feelings? If so, are their feelings the same as people's feelings? There's a big discussion about this subject. Many people who work closely with animals say that they do have feelings and can experience happiness. These people think animals are just like humans. Other people are not so certain.







*Limba fell in love
with the two
young elephants.*



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Summarise

What does Hackenberger think about how to keep elephants happy? Summarise this in one sentence.



Students help to clean the elephants.

One interesting possibility is helping elephants in Thailand. Most people think of elephants as animals in zoos or circuses. However, many elephants in Thailand are no longer kept in captivity. Now, hundreds of them are homeless. These gentle animals are often found on the streets as they do not have owners to care for them. Although they may look well, they are often in poor health and don't have enough to eat.

One centre in Thailand cares for these elephants. It provides a safe and natural living space for them. When they are at the centre, they stay in a building but are free to walk around. Students come from all over

the world to help here. The student helpers work with the elephant keepers. These keepers train the students in caring for the elephants. In the morning, they go to the forest together and lead the elephants to the centre. They clean them and give them food. In the afternoon, they take the animals back into the forest for the night. Helping at the centre is interesting and the young people learn a lot.

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Word Count: 321

Time: _____

Vocabulary List

absolutely (17)

barbaric (13)

captivity (3, 4, 18)

circus (3, 4, 10)

gentle (3, 17)

herd (2, 10, 14)

humans (2, 4, 8)

husbandry (6)

in the wild (2, 3, 4, 10, 12, 17, 18)

ingrown feet (6)

mud (2, 17)

technique (13)

train (3, 6, 13, 17, 18)

trunk (2, 6)

walk away from (13)

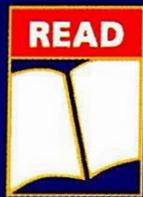
zoo (3, 4, 6, 10, 14)

INCREDIBLE ANIMALS

Happy Elephants

Elephants are social animals. In nature, they live happily in family groups. However, humans sometimes use elephants for work or put them in zoos. What can people do to make these elephants healthy and happy? How can they stay that way?

Welcome the sights and sounds of the world with the *Footprint Reading Library*. Accompanied by original video material developed by *National Geographic Digital Media*, this is the first non-fiction reading series to present fascinating real-world stories in three formats: print, audio, and video.



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