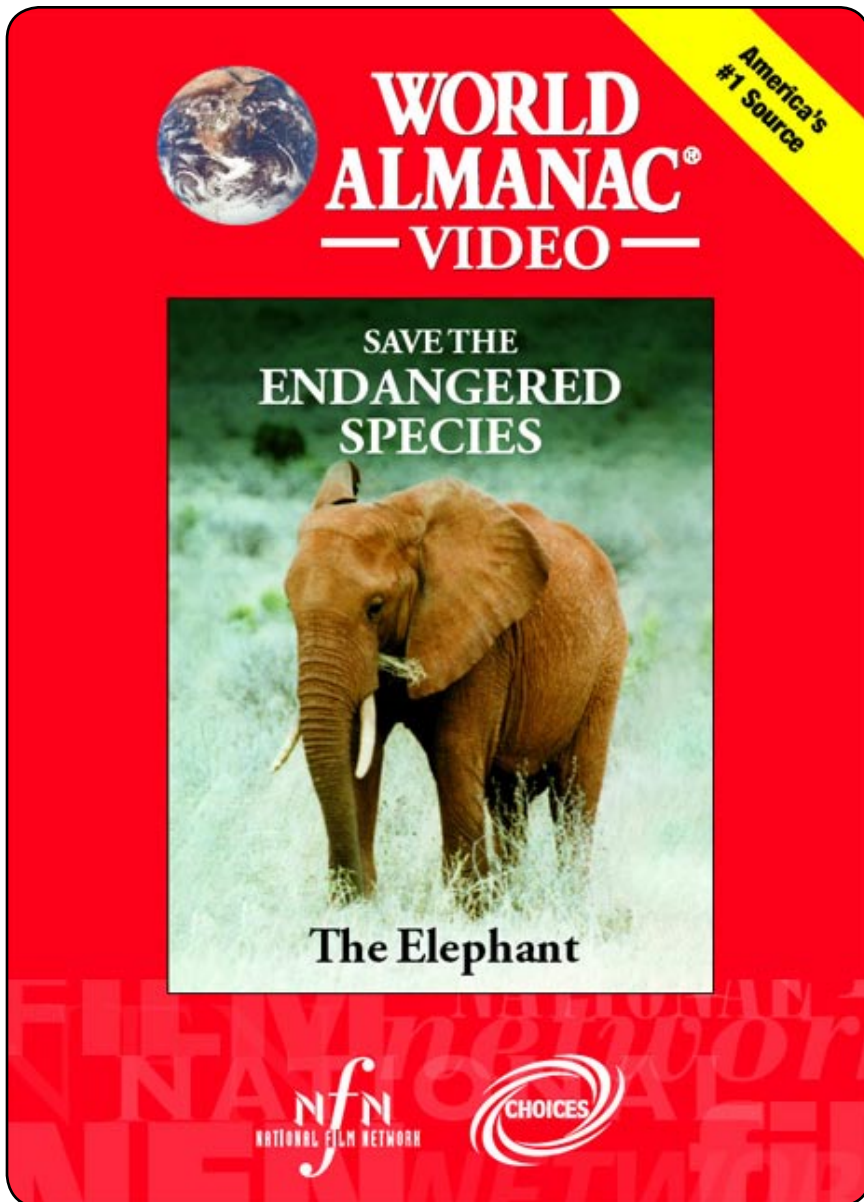


# Discussion Guide



Misunderstood by most, the elephant is actually one of the most intelligent mammals on earth. On a preserve in Tennessee, Carol Buckley provides ease and comfort to retired circus elephants while in the Amboseli National Park in Kenya, Joyce Poole studies the elephant's language and struggles to keep this miraculous animal from vanishing off the face of the Earth.



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# THINGS TO THINK ABOUT / THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTIONS

- *Elephants, as the documentary shows, clearly feel emotions and form friendships.*  
Have you seen evidence in other animals that they may feel such emotions as happiness or sadness?  
Do you know of other examples of animals who become attached to one another?
- *Researchers are now learning that elephants have a complex communication system.*  
What other animals are able to communicate with one another?  
What does knowledge of animal communication teach us about animal intelligence?  
Does ignorance of animal communication cause us to underestimate animal intelligence?
- Based on the information in the documentary, do you think that it might be cruel to have elephants perform in circuses?  
Have you seen performing elephants?  
Do you think the practice of performing elephants should be discontinued?  
What other animals perform for human entertainment?

## OTHER RESOURCES

### For students:

Buckley, Carol: **Travels with Tarra**; Tilbury House Publishers, 2002.  
Douglas-Hamilton, Oria: **The Elephant Family Book**; Picture Book Studio, 1990.  
Levine, Stuart P: **The Elephant**; Lucent Books, 1998.  
Moss, Cynthia: **Echo of the Elephants: The Story of an Elephant Family**; Quill, 1994.  
Payne, Katherine: **Elephants Calling**; Crown Publishers, 1992.  
Redmond, Ian: **Eyewitness: Elephant**; DK Publishing, 2000.

### For adults:

Alexander, Shana: **The Astonishing Elephant**; Random House, 2000.  
Groning, Karl, and Saller, Martin: **Elephants: A Cultural and Natural History**; Konemann, 1999.  
Douglas-Hamilton, Iain, and Douglas-Hamilton, Oria: **Battle for the Elephants**; Doubleday Transworld Publishers, 1992.  
Moss, Cynthia: **Elephant Memories: Thirteen Years in the Life of an Elephant Family**; University of Chicago Press, 2000.  
Payne, Katy: **Silent Thunder: In the Presence of Elephants**; Simon & Schuster, 1998.  
Poole, Joyce: **Coming of Age with Elephants: A Memoir**; Hodder & Stoughton, 1996.  
Scigliano, Eric: **Love, War, and Circuses: The Age-Old Relationship Between Elephants and Humans**; Houghton Mifflin, 2002.

## Internet

<http://www.elephants.com> – Web site of Carol Buckley's Elephant Sanctuary.

[http://www.elephants.com/poole\\_address.htm](http://www.elephants.com/poole_address.htm) – A speech given by Joyce Poole at an elephant managers workshop.

<http://elephant.elehost.com/index.html> – A rich site called the "Elephant Information Repository," with information on all aspects of elephants and many links to other sites.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/animalmind/consciousness.html> – From a series on animal consciousness, some speculations about animal communication with a tape of Joyce Poole.

<http://www.kws.org/amboseli.htm> – From the Kenya Wildlife Service, an excellent page on Amboseli National Park.

<http://www.kenyalogy.com/eng/parques/amboseli.html> – Another fine Web site on Amboseli National Park.

<http://www.save-the-elephants.org> – The Web site of an organization named "Save the Elephants."

Note..