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CERTIFIED BY: [Signature]
Headmaster
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Child's own work
II Dyslexic pupil - please excuse somewhat untidy writing.

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PRELIM
This week I am talking about the animals in Zimbabwe for the children who live in other countries. Well, my name is Davina Steiner and I am sure you have heard about me in Wildlife Magazine of Zimbabwe, because it goes all over the world. Today I am going to talk about the Elephants and Giraffes, first elephants.

The biggest animal on land is the African elephant.

The male (bull) African elephant weighs up to six tonnes. It is about 11 feet (3.4m) high at the shoulder. The female (cow) is smaller.

The baby elephants are born with a thin covering of hair. This becomes thinner as the elephants grow up.

We do not have the Indian elephant in Zimbabwe. Their ears are smaller than the African elephants and they have a hump on their backs.

An elephant’s trunk is just a very long nose. It can be used for drinking and feeding. It can be used for pulling down a tree or for picking up a peanut. It can be used for fighting.

Elephants have very large, round feet. Each foot
has five toes, but not all of them have nails. The underside of the foot forms a large pad. The shoulder height of an elephant is equal to twice the measurement round the front foot.

The skin of elephants is thick and wrinkled; they must protect themselves from heat and insects to do this, they use their trunks to spray themselves with water, sand or mud.

Elephants do not have good eyesight; their sense of smell is very good and so is their sense of hearing. They flap their huge ears to cool themselves.

Tusks are made of ivory. They can be 10 feet or (3m) long and weigh 100 lbs or (45kg). An elephant’s tusks are just two extra-large teeth; they keep on growing all through the elephant’s life. They are used mostly for digging, especially for water.

Elephants live for about seventy years. They live in jungles, forests and grassy plains. They form herds of about twenty, led by an old female.

The herds search food nearly all day long. They eat grass, leaves and fruit. Every day each elephant eats about 300 lbs or (136kg) of food and drinks forty gallons or (190litres) of water. Now I am going to speak about the Giraffe. You do not find a lot of giraffes in Zimbabwe.
Giraffes are the tallest of all land animals. A fully-grown male can be 19 feet (5.6m) tall. Giraffes live on the grass plains of Africa.

The giraffe's long neck has seven bones. The human neck is shorter, but has the same number of bones.

Most big animals have poor eyesight but the giraffe can see for miles. This helps to keep it safe from enemies like lions. Giraffes have special colours so they can be camouflaged in the bush and not easily seen.

Giraffes feed mostly on the leaves of trees. Their long neck helps them to gather food which other animals cannot reach. They have black tongues which can reach the shoot of the tree. The preferred food of giraffes is the young leaves and shoots at the tops of acacia trees. When they drink they have to stretch their front legs out side ways and bend forward to the water. They look very funny. They can run at a top speed of 30mph.

In courtship, giraffes often rub their head and necks together lovingly. Females adopt a swinging gait which is quite irresistible to the male.

A young giraffe weighs 86 pounds. The young of hoofed animals born in the open must be active immediately. A baby giraffe which my be six
Elephants, at birth, can stand alone in a few minutes.

That is all for now, I will talk about two more animals next week. If you want to come and see the animals come to Zimbabwe and go to the lion park.

I got some of the facts from the Ladybird Book. There is 576 words.