



The Great Elephant Census

OVERVIEW

This worksheet complements the short video "[The Great Elephant Census](#)" from the *Scientists at Work* series.

PROCEDURE

1. Prior to watching the video, read the questions below.
2. Watch the video.
3. If working with a partner or in a small group, discuss and answer the questions below. If working alone, think about and answer the questions below.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the two main threats to African elephant populations?

Scientists estimate that African elephants are being lost at a rate of _____/day.

2. What are two principal research questions that will be addressed by the Great Elephant Census?
3. Logistics are the details that must be handled to plan and organize a complicated activity or event that involves many people. Give three examples of logistics that the organizers of the census need to address.
4. How will the results from the project be used?
5. Dr. Mike Chase's team has chosen to use a sample count method to estimate the total elephant population size. Why did they choose sampling over a total count of each elephant?
6. Accurate counts are critical because they are used to estimate the total population. List three things that the researchers do to ensure accurate sample counts.
7. What technology is the team using to determine which elephants are inside and outside the strip? What human limitation makes this necessary?

