

UNIT 2: WILDLIFE IN MALAWI

~ MALAWI'S SPECIAL WILDLIFE ~

There are many species of wild animals that are only found in Africa. People from all over the world come especially to Malawi to spot our amazing wildlife. Here are some examples and interesting facts about them...

LET'S INVESTIGATE

Ask learners to discuss some of their favourite wild animals and what is special about them. You can also help to inspire them about the magic of wildlife with some of these fun facts.

LIONS

- ◆ A lion's roar can be heard up to 8km away.
- ◆ There are only 16,000 lions left in the whole of Africa vs 400,000 in 1950. Only 30 wild lions are left in Malawi - that's around half a million people for every lion.

ELEPHANTS

- ◆ Elephants are the largest land-living mammal in the world.
- ◆ They can get sunburnt so they cover themselves in sand or mud.
- ◆ They use their feet to listen and can pick up sub-sonic rumblings made by other elephants through vibrations in the ground.

HIPPO

- ◆ Hippos can easily outrun a human.
- ◆ They can hold their breath for 5 minutes underwater.
- ◆ They eat about 68 kg of grass every night, that's the same weight as 68 bags of sugar.

LEOPARD

- ◆ Leopards can drag kill into a tree to protect it from lions and hyenas. They can do this with prey up to 3 times their own body weight.
- ◆ A leopard has spots to help it camouflage and helps it blend in with trees and grass. This is an example of evolutionary adaptation.

PYTHON

- ◆ Pythons generally feed once or twice a month but can go up to a year without eating after a very big meal.
- ◆ The biggest python in the world is the Reticulated Python and measures up to 10 metres, around 2.5 times the length of a car.

OWLS

- ◆ Owls have three eyelids: one for blinking, one for sleeping and one for keeping the eyes clean and healthy.
- ◆ In Malawi owls are associated with witchcraft and bad luck. However they are seen as symbols of wisdom and helpfulness in Europe and India.

CROCODILE

- ◆ Crocodiles have by far the strongest bite in the world, five times stronger than a hyena. However the muscles to open their jaws are not so powerful and a reasonably strong man can hold the jaws shut with their bare hands.

