



Name: _____ Date: _____

My favorite African animal is the _____ because _____

In the beginning, the elephant had a small nose. This didn't bother him at all. The only problem with having a _____ nose was that he had to go down on his knees to reach anything on the ground, and he had to stretch himself tall to reach high into the trees. One day Elephant was at the river kneeling down drinking from the fresh cool water. Just at that moment Crocodile swam past, and spotted Elephant at the water's edge. Crocodile was feeling _____ hungry indeed, and thought that something the size of Elephant would make a very good meal. Crocodile swam sneakily over to where Elephant was and he waited. Suddenly Crocodile leaped out of the water and grabbed Elephant by his nose. Elephant was shocked and tried to pull from Crocodile, but Crocodile kept a firm grip on his _____.

Crocodile used all his strength to pull Elephant into the water and Elephant used all his strength to _____ his nose back from Crocodile. The two battled for hours, and with every pull and tug, Elephant's nose stretched a little more. Pull, tug, stretch. Pull, _____, stretch. Eventually Crocodile became too tired to pull any more, and let go of Elephant. Elephant ran off, with his now very _____ nose hanging down in front of his feet. He was sad, and hid in the bush as he was too embarrassed to face the other animals. While Elephant was hiding he realized that his new stretched nose was more useful than his previously small snout. He was able to reach food and drink without kneeling any more, and could even reach high branches and pull them down to eat the fruit and leaves. All the other Elephants _____ realized the benefits of having a long trunk, and one by one they, too, visited the river and taunted the Crocodile to try and pull them into the water. The Elephants always won the tug-of-wars, and all ended up with lovely stretched snouts, _____ Crocodile remained hungry. To this day, all Elephants still have their _____ trunks rather than a small snout, and Crocodiles have learnt that it is a waste of time to attack Elephants at the _____.