Weighty Problems: Station 4

Jumbo facts

Find out facts about the mass of very large animals and make a report about these animals for the class. To get you started here are some facts about the Blue Whale and the African elephant.



The blue whale is the largest animal living on Earth.

- It can reach up to nearly 30 metres in length and weigh up to 180 tonnes (t).
- Their tongues alone can weigh as much as some elephants and their hearts are huge, weighing a whopping 180kg.
- They have the largest babies on Earth. When they are first born they can be 8 metres (m) in length and weigh 4000kg.
- Imagine a jet engine that registers at 140 decibels. A blue whale, when it calls, registers at 188 decibels.



- Fully grown the male can be 7 metres long,
- 3.2 metres tall at the shoulder and a mass of 6500 kg.
- Its tusks can weigh as much as 100 kg each.
- The largest pair of tusks on record are in the British Museum and weigh 133 kg each.



What combination of animals could be equal to the elephant's weight?

For example, it takes $6500 \div 5 = 1300$ big domestic cats to weight 1 elephant or 130 big dogs.

How many rhinoceroses, lions, giraffes, or hippopotamuses weigh the same as an elephant?