mushrooms, it grew from a single spore and sent out threads of cells called hyphae. These hyphae joined and formed a mass that eventually spread for miles underground. The word hyphae is from a Greek word that means “web.”

Another massive living organism is named Pando, which is a Latin word that means “I spread.” Pando is a group of 43,000 aspen trees that grow together in Utah on 106 acres of land. Scientists estimate that Pando weighs about 6,500 tons, or about 13,000,000 pounds. They also estimate that it could be 80,000 years old. The trees have become able to clone themselves, which means that all of the trees came from the same plant. They are connected at their roots, and they all change the color of their leaves and lose their leaves at the same time.

Even though the honey mushroom and Pando have lived for thousands of years, scientists have only discovered them recently. Even larger living things may still be discovered.
Bigger Than an Elephant

Were you surprised by what you learned about big animals and plants? Write some of the facts that surprised you, then read these facts to a friend or family member. Here are some words you might use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>African elephant</th>
<th>blue whale</th>
<th>tons</th>
<th>pounds</th>
<th>honey mushroom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>underground</td>
<td>miles</td>
<td>Pando</td>
<td>tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plant</td>
<td>root</td>
<td>connected</td>
<td>clone</td>
<td>Utah</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comprehension Response Activities
FYI for Kids — Level 2

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Review

Bigger Than an Elephant

Write keywords or phrases that will help you remember what you learned.