



# Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth

By Chris Lavers

Download now

Read Online ➔

**Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth** By  
Chris Lavers

*Why Elephants Have Big Ears* is the result of one man's lifelong quest to understand why the creatures of the earth appear and act as they do. In a wry manner and personal tone, Chris Lavers explores and solves some of nature's most challenging evolutionary mysteries, such as why birds are small and plentiful, why rivers and lakes are dominated by the few remaining large reptiles, why most of the large land-dwellers are mammals, and many more.

📄 [Download Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Pattern ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patte ...pdf](#)

# Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth

*By Chris Lavers*

**Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth** By Chris Lavers

*Why Elephants Have Big Ears* is the result of one man's lifelong quest to understand why the creatures of the earth appear and act as they do. In a wry manner and personal tone, Chris Lavers explores and solves some of nature's most challenging evolutionary mysteries, such as why birds are small and plentiful, why rivers and lakes are dominated by the few remaining large reptiles, why most of the large land-dwellers are mammals, and many more.

**Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth** By Chris Lavers

## **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #1429774 in Books
- Published on: 2001-03-19
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.62" h x 1.01" w x 7.52" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 288 pages

 [Download Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Pattern ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patte ...pdf](#)

## **Editorial Review**

### *Amazon.com Review*

This book might have been titled *On the Perfection of Crocodiles*. Chris Lavers, a biogeographer at the University of Nottingham, argues that "After 200 million years of hegemonic ecological success, it is time to recognize crocodilians for what they truly are: perhaps the closest approximation to an unsurpassable ecological design in the entire history of tetrapod life." There's a reason, he shows, that "alligators are as tough as old boots": it's not necessarily better to be warm-blooded. "If the warm-blooded condition were inherently superior in the struggle for life, then the world would be crawling with mammal-like and bird-like creatures, whereas in truth it is quite literally crawling with lizards, frogs, snakes, spiders, and beetles." Lavers looks around the animal world and points out that it's full of large warm-blooded creatures and many, many more small cold-blooded ones.

"There is a natural order to tetrapod life on our planet, rooted in the natural ecological talents of different types of animals," Lavers writes. These natural talents come from the fundamental characteristics of different forms and metabolisms: cold-blooded animals like crocodiles can endure starvation far better than warm-blooded creatures, while warm-blooded ones, if properly fueled, can keep going under conditions that stop crocodiles, well, cold. Biologists are used to thinking that energy balances, costs, and benefits are fundamental issues for living creatures, but not of thinking that these issues can be interesting to the general public. Lavers shows that they can be perfectly fascinating: he writes of the peculiarities of elephants, of hot and cold running dinosaurs, of birds on the wing and the ground, with verve and accuracy. This book might be a particularly good choice for dinosaurophiles who are looking to broaden their interests to even larger patterns of life on Earth. --*Mary Ellen Curtin*

### *From Publishers Weekly*

In this encyclopedic study of the animal kingdom, Lavers demonstrates the truth in his book's epigraph, taken from the German writer (and scientist) Goethe's diary: "How delightful and magnificent a living thing is! How exactly matched to its condition, how true, how intensely being!" Lavers, a lecturer in natural history at the University of Nottingham (England) and contributor to the *New Statesman*, shows how form is perfectly matched to function in the animal kingdom. After he explains why elephants have stocky legs and long noses and no hair, it gradually becomes clear why they have such large appendages: with relatively little skin surface in proportion to their volume, they have a hard time releasing body heat; the large ears act as ventilators, providing extra surface for the release of excess heat. Dinosaur enthusiasts will enjoy Lavers's take on the cold-blooded vs. warm-blooded debate, in which the claims of warm-blood champion Robert Bakker and his opponents are evaluated on the basis of a detailed understanding of animal anatomy that many other accounts lack. Lavers also explains the importance of layered jungle ecosystems and inland watersheds for large-scale environmental well-being. The book concludes with a frightening but not alarmist warning about the dangers of global warming, which, Lavers shows, probably caused the monumental extinction of almost all life at the end of the Permian period. The writing tends toward the academic from time to time; a little more whimsical conjecture would have added to the book's already considerable appeal. Why wouldn't we ever see a baby elephant fly? Lavers hydroplanes over the underwater world of fish and marine creatures, but perhaps we can expect a future book devoted to it. The drawings of animals here are outstanding. While it will give teenagers a first-rate introduction to natural history, it holds delights for readers of all ages.

From [Booklist](#)

Lavers analyzes why animals look the way they do, why they live where they live, and why their physiology is either warm- or cold-blooded. As a child Lavers watched nature programs and wondered about things that the commentators didn't discuss: Why are elephants' ears so big? Why are reptiles small, with the exception of a few really large species that live in water? Why are most birds small? Understanding all of these whys becomes easy under the author's tutelage. He first tackles the fundamental concept of scaling, which explains why large animals are built differently from small animals (and leads to the answer of the book's title question). He then examines the evolution of animal life and the corollary evolution of warm-bloodedness. The patterns of animal life on the planet can be explained by understanding how their size and physiology interconnect, and then by how size and physiology relate to where an animal lives. *Nancy Bent*  
*Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Dirk Sullivan:**

What do you concerning book? It is not important with you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what you problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. They need to answer that question mainly because just their can do that. It said that about book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need this Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth to read.

#### **Myrtle Hamer:**

The reserve with title Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth contains a lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. This specific book exist new expertise the information that exist in this reserve represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This specific book will bring you throughout new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read this anywhere you want.

#### **Sandra Earnhardt:**

Why? Because this Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will surprise you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such amazing way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of gains than the other book get such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I were you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

**Ralph Scott:**

Is it you who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth can be the answer, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this completely new era is common not a geek activity. So what these ebooks have than the others?

**Download and Read Online Why Elephants Have Big Ears:  
Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth By Chris Lavers  
#Y7A3LQHRDZM**

# **Read Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth By Chris Lavers for online ebook**

Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth By Chris Lavers Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth By Chris Lavers books to read online.

## **Online Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth By Chris Lavers ebook PDF download**

### **Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth By Chris Lavers Doc**

Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth By Chris Lavers Mobipocket

Why Elephants Have Big Ears: Understanding Patterns of Life on Earth By Chris Lavers EPub