

## **Fun Facts Friday: The Elephant Skull**

An elephant's skull can weigh several hundred pounds, yet it isn't solid bone. Inside, it's built like a honeycomb, with air-filled spaces separated by thin bony walls. This design keeps the skull strong while making it lighter than its size suggests.

Those internal walls also help spread the force created when elephants use their tusks and powerful trunks to push, dig, and strip bark. Some parts of the skull are several inches thick, built to handle this constant heavy-duty use.

The back and top of the skull are broad and flattened, forming wide attachment areas for the massive neck and trunk muscles. That surface area helps the neck support and control the head during daily activity.

The result is a skull built for strength and balance, allowing the head to function as a powerful tool without becoming excessively heavy.

Photo: Drinking uses powerful trunk muscles that anchor to the skull (Mundi)

