

Animals of the World: Mammals

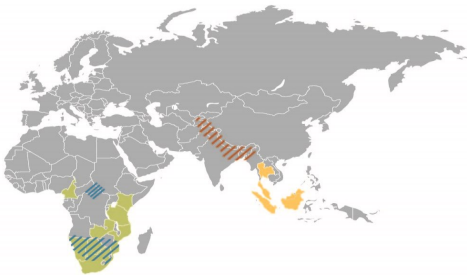
THE RHINOCEROS

Rhinoceros are some of the largest land animals in the world, along with elephants and hippos. The characteristic that distinguishes rhinoceros from the rest of the mammals is the two horns protruding from his skull as if it were a nose.

There are only five species of rhinoceros in the world: the well-known white rhino, the black, the Javan, the Indian, and the Sumatran. Depending on which species, they weigh between 800 and 4100 kilograms, and are about 1.70 meters tall.



Their habitat extends through southern Africa and parts of Asia, such as India and the islands of Java and Sumatra. The rhinoceros can inhabit from broad savannahs to thick forests.



They usually live near water reservoirs like rivers or lakes to cool off and for the enormous amounts of water they drink.

They are herbivorous animals; they eat grass, herbs, roots, and fruit on the ground. The rhinoceros eats large amounts of food; an adult rhinoceros eats about 50 kilograms of vegetation a day.



Rhinoceros are active at sunset and at night to keep cool.

During the day, they retreat under the shadows of trees. They do not move from the shade until it cools down. When they are hot, they look for muddy areas to cover their bodies and cool down. As rhinos look for their food at night, they stumble on stones or trees because their eyesight is not very good.

Rhinoceros can sleep lying down or standing. They need to sleep a total of 8 hours a day, which they do in brief periods of sleep throughout the day. On warmer days, they usually sleep under the shade of trees.

The horns of the rhinoceros have many uses: for defense, to fight off predators, to dig, break trees, and find water. The male rhinoceros also use their horns to impress the females during the mating season and for posturing.

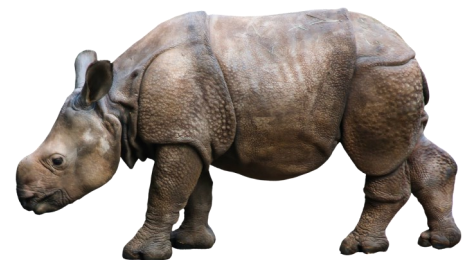


The horns of the black and white rhinos of Africa are larger than the horns of the Asian species.

The life expectancy of a rhinoceros is 60 years when it has access to enough food and water.

The gestation period for rhinoceros is 14 to 18 months. After it is born,

the young rhinoceros is taken care of by its mother for two to four years. Rhinoceros babies weigh between 20 and 40 kilograms, which make them one of the largest offspring in the kingdom animal. Its large size helps its survival.



The majority of rhinoceros live in national parks and reservations. In their natural habitat, they are hunted by poachers for their horns. Poachers sell the horns on the black market. Because of poaching, the rhinoceros is at risk of total extinction.

Name _____

Date _____

THE RHINOCEROS

Answer the questions.



1. Rhinoceroses are _____
 - a. mammals, herbivores, have three horns, and good sight.
 - b. mammals, carnivores, have two horns, and have good sight.
 - c. mammals, herbivores, have two horns do not have good sight.
 - d. are mammals, omnivorous, have four horns and have good sight.

2. What does the text mean that rhinos are animals with big appetites?
 - a. They consume tiny amounts of grass, herbs, roots and fallen fruits.
 - b. They can consume up to 50 kilograms of plant matter per day.
 - c. They feed on hundreds of kilos of herbs and animals found on the way.
 - d. They hunt and cook their food through the savanna and thick forests.

3. The weight and height of the different species of rhinos _____
 - a. is constant, they weigh from 800 to 4100 kilos, and are less than 1.70 meters tall.
 - b. is always the same, weighing around 950 kilograms, and are 2 meters tall.
 - c. depends on the species, weighing between 800 and 4100 kilograms, and are 1.70 meters tall.
 - d. varies, weighing between 800 and 1400 kilograms, and can reach a height of 1.70 meters.

4. Why are rhinos much more active during sunset and at night?
 - a. They need to keep their small bodies cool.
 - b. They can sleep whenever they want.
 - c. They need to keep their large bodies cool.
 - d. They need to keep their large bodies warm.

Name _____

Date _____

5. How do rhinos sleep?
- In hot weather, they sleep on the treetops.
 - They sleep for 8 hours lying near rivers or lakes to avoid heat.
 - They can sleep both lying down and standing.
 - They never sleep, they stay alert in case other animals attack them.
6. The life expectancy of a rhinoceros is _____ years, when it lives _____
- 80 / in unfavorable conditions, with limited access to food and water.
 - 60 / in favorable conditions, with sufficient access to light and heat.
 - 80 / in favorable conditions, with sufficient access to food and rivers.
 - 60 / in favorable conditions, with sufficient access to food and water.
7. According to the text, when rhinos are hot _____
- They look for muddy ground to cover their bodies.
 - They get into rivers or lakes to cool their body.
 - They drink a lot of water.
 - All the answers are correct.
8. Black and white rhinos in Africa are the ones with the largest horns.
- True
 - False
9. The text states that rhinos are at risk of extinction. What does that mean?
- They can disappear from the earth.
 - They are friends of poachers.
 - They work in the black market.
 - They sleep under the treetops.
10. Rhinos generally live near a water reservoir.
- True
 - False

