



Everything about Rhinoceros

A rhinoceros – often referred to as a rhino – is a large mammal that weighs between one and two tons. A white rhino typically weighs over two tons, while a black rhino usually weighs in between one and one-and-a-half tons.

There are five species of rhinos, and most are found in Africa and Asia. The white rhino's name comes from the Dutch word "weit" which means wide. This term references its wide, square muzzle; which has adapted in such a way for grazing. The white rhino is actually grey in color, and has a large hump on its neck and a long face. The other species of rhino is called the black, or hooked-lipped rhino. It has a thick, dark, hairless hide. The scientific name for the black rhino is *Dieceros bicornis*, and the scientific name for the white rhino is *Ceratotherium simum*. Other types of rhinos include the Sumatran Rhino, the Javan Rhino, and the Indian Rhino. The Sumatran rhinoceros is the smallest type of rhino, standing about 4.6 feet high and weighing approximately 2,200 lbs.

This large animal is vegetarian and eats a wide variety of greens. The black rhino eats leaves, buds, and shoots that can be found on various plants, bushes and trees. The white rhino prefers to graze on grass. Black rhinos mainly live in dense areas with lots of vegetation, while white rhinos live in savannas with water holes and trees for shade.

The black rhino tends to live a solitary life, while the white rhino is a bit more social. Sometimes rhinos will share feeding areas and water holes. The rhino is known as being a fairly ill-tempered animal, with

poor eyesight and an ability to make many different sounds, such as growls, snorts, bellows, squeaks and grunts. Their hearing and sense of scent are both very good, and when attacking, the rhino can reach a speed of 45 miles per hour.

A young rhino will stay with its mother for two to four years. A baby rhino is called a calf. When the calf matures, it may join another female with her young, where they will be tolerated before leaving to live entirely on their own. A group of rhinos is called a "crash." A rhino can live between 40 and 45 years.

The rhino does not have any natural predators. In fact, the only true predator of the rhino is man. Because humans have hunted the rhino for many years, the rhinoceros population has sharply decreased. In order to prevent extinction, in the early 1990s many rhinos were transferred to sanctuaries for protection.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. How many species of rhinoceroses are there?
 - a. One
 - b. Five
 - c. Six
 - d. Seven

2. When attacking, the rhino can reach a speed of:
 - a. 3 miles per hour
 - b. 45 miles per hour
 - c. 50 miles per hour
 - d. 300 miles per hour

3. Rhinos are considered:
 - a. Vegetarians
 - b. Omnivores
 - c. Carnivores
 - d. None of the above

4. The color of a white rhino is:
 - a. White
 - b. Cream
 - c. Light grey
 - d. Blue

5. A baby rhinoceros is called a:
 - a. Rhino
 - b. Calf
 - c. Mini-Rhino
 - d. Pup

Name: _____ Date: _____

Short Answer Questions

1. How old can a rhino live until?
2. Which typically weighs more – the white rhino or the black rhino?
3. What is the scientific name for the black rhino?
4. What do we call a group of rhinos?
5. Who is the rhino's only real predator?
6. What is being done to protect the rhinoceros population?
7. What might a calf typically do after leaving his or her mother, but before living alone?
8. What does the black rhino eat?
9. Other than the black rhino or the white rhino, what are two other types of rhinos?
10. On a separate sheet, draw a picture of a rhinoceros.

ANSWER KEY: