Rhino Facts

Cut out each fact along the dotted line. Place around your classroom or school to help inform students about rhinos.

There are five different species of rhinoceros.

Three are from southern Asia and two are from Africa. They are the Indian Rhinoceros (also known as the Greater One-Horned), Javan Rhinoceros, Sumatran Rhinoceros, Black Rhinoceros, and White Rhinoceros.

White rhinoceros are the second largest land mammal.

The white rhino is the largest rhino and can weigh over 3500 kg (7700 lb) and is the largest land mammal after the elephant. Elephants can grow to be 7,000 kg (15,000 lb).

3 out of 5 rhino species are listed as being critically endangered.

The Black Rhinoceros, Javan Rhinoceros and Sumatran Rhinoceros are all Critically Endangered which means they have 50% chance of becoming extinct in three generations.

Rhinoceros have thick, sensitive skin.

Rhino skin may be thick, but it can be quite sensitive to sunburns and insect bites. This is why rhinos love mud baths so much – when the mud dries it acts as protection from the sunburns and insects, like natural sunscreen and insect repellent.

Rhinoceros horns are made from a protein called keratin, the same substance that fingernails and hair are made of.

The rhino's horn grows throughout the animal's lifetime, just like our own hair and nails. The longest known horn was on a black rhino and measured 4 feet 9 inches long! They average about 20 inches in length on the black rhino.

Rhinoceros are herbivores (plant eaters).

They have to eat a lot to fill their large bodies.

Rhinos have poor eyesight, but have a great sense of smell and hearing.

A rhino has difficulty detecting someone standing less than a hundred feet away if they stay still. However, if the person makes the faintest sound or the rhino is able to smell the person, it will easily detect him, even at much greater distances.

BABY RHINO RESCUE

Rhinos communicate with poo!

Rhinos use piles of dung to leave “messages” for other rhinos. Each rhino’s smell is unique and identifies its owner. It can also tell a rhino if the other rhino is young or old, male or female. They also tell other rhinos that this is their territory.

BABY RHINO RESCUE

Rhino horn is used in traditional Asian medicine.

Rhino horns have no medicinal value. However in many parts of Asia, it is still believed to cure diseases, even though it does not.

Rhino horns are worth more than gold!

When rhino horns are sold on the Black Market, they are considered worth more than gold.

Many baby rhinos are left to die after their mother has been poached.

A baby rhino cannot survive without its mother. A baby rhino calf stays with its mother for about two to three years. Male calves tend to leave their mother sooner than their female counterparts. Once they leave, they will go and find a territory of their own.

BABY RHINO
RESCUE