

ANIMAL FUN FACTS

THE AFRICAN RHINOCEROS

There are five different species of rhinoceros, three native to southern Asia and two native to Africa. They are the Black Rhinoceros, White Rhinoceros, Indian Rhinoceros, Javan Rhinoceros and Sumatran Rhinoceros.

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

Rhinoceros are herbivores (plant eaters).

Black rhinos can be mean and aggressive. They will fight each other. More have died or been injured in combat than any other group of mammals.

Black Rhinos have a prehensile, upper lip, a power-pout that hangs out when they are hungry or upset. It's been adapted over time to grasp and hold leaves.

Rhinos have thick, protective skin, barrel-like bodies, gigantic heads, and incredible horns protruding from their faces.

Relative to their large body size, rhinoceros have small brains.

A group of rhinoceros is called a 'herd' or a 'crash'.

Rhinoceroses have poor eyesight but acute senses of hearing and smell.

A rhino's foot has three short toes, each tipped with broad, blunt nails.



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Despite being such large animals, the rhinoceros is actually quite agile. The Black Rhinoceros can gain a speed up to thirty miles per hour, even through thick brush. They are able to turn around quickly to resume chasing their target.

Rhinos are hunted for their horns. Rhino horns are touted to cure hangovers, cancer, impotence, and are used for other healing medicines and ornamental carvings. They are endangered.

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