



<http://images.fineartamerica.com/images-medium-large/black-rhino-on-the-masai-mara-sandra-bronstein.jpg>

THE BLACK RHINOCEROS

An Endangered Animal

By Ethan Howard

Grade 5

Leverett Elementary School

Winter 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Names	3
Description	4
Habitat	5
Valued For	6
Threats	7
Solutions	8
Bibliography	9



http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_W9OV87w3sr8/TTAcOL7b2II/AAAAAAAAA0U/A4K7JeJeALU/s1600/Black-Rhinoceros.jpg

Introduction

Imagine you're in the African savannah and you see a big, black horn sticking out from behind a bush. You drop to the ground, unsure of what's there. You move slowly towards it, curious to find out what it is. All of a sudden, a huge, ten-foot long Black Rhino comes out from behind the bush with part of a prickly bush in its mouth. You're scared and jump back and roll to safety, amazed that you saw this extraordinary animal.

Names

The Black Rhino's scientific name is *Diceros bicornis*. The Black Rhino is part of the ungulates family. There are five subspecies of the Black Rhino: Western, Eastern, South-west, and South Central. As you can see, the Black Rhino has many different names.



http://www.mnn.com/sites/default/files/rhino_6.jpg



<http://www.sanparks.org/parks/karoo/images/>



© Andrew Forsyth / www.flpa-images.co.uk

<http://cdn1.arkive.org/media/3B/3B19CBB8-815C-4486-BCC9-45FA808E178F/Presentation.Medium/Southwestern-black-rhinoceros-male-charging.jpg>



http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_W9OV87w3sr8/TTAcOL7b2II/AAAAAAAAAAU/A4K7JeJeALU/s1600/Black-Rhinoceros.jpg

Description

The Black Rhino has two horns on its head and it is covered with tough skin. They can grow 7–10 feet long. Black rhinos can knock down trees and branches with the two horns on their head. They can kick away predators with their two back legs. The female Black Rhino is a caring mother because she keeps a close



<http://images.fineartamerica.com/images-medium-large/black-rhino-on-the-masai-mara-sandra-bronstein.jpg>

watch on her calves. The male follows the female for weeks before mating. The calves are mostly born during the rainy season. The female rhinos live with their calves until they stop nursing, when they are about three years old. The rhinos mating habits are very interesting



<http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/small-wonders/rhino/images/black-rhino.jpg>

Habitat

Black rhinos are kind of picky about their habitat. They live in the southeast tip of Africa and in countries like Kenya. They need water every day. They may have to walk miles before finding water. Rhinos usually sleep under trees in the savannah. They need trees and shrubs for shelter and food. The rhino's habitat is called a bushveld. Clearly rhinos depend on their habitat for many different things.



<http://resources1.news.com.au/images/2011/11/11/1226192/205365-kufara-baby-black-rhino.jpg>

What the Black Rhino is Valued for

Black rhinos are valued for a lot of different things. Poachers kill them for their horns and skin. Some people cut the Black Rhino's heads off and put them on the wall for game trophies. In Kenya people think that their horns can heal them. Ten to fifteen people die every year trying to save the Black Rhino.

Threats

black rhinos have a lot of threats. Poachers catch them with snares and also just shooting them. They get killed mostly for their horns to make digger handles. Rhinos reproduce very slowly because they are pregnant for 15–16 months. Clearly people are the biggest threats to rhinos.

Figure 5



http://www.nature.com/scitable/content/ne0000/ne0000/ne0000/ne0000/84114242/Figure-5__1__2.jpge

Solutions

There is still hope for the Black Rhinos. One surprising way scientists help them is to cut off the horns so poachers won't kill them. We should try to help Black Rhinos in every way possible. Share as much information as you can. You can go see Black Rhinos at the zoo. Try to raise money to help stop poachers. If you don't help now Black Rhinos could be extinct very soon.

Bibliography

Spilsbury, Richard. *Animals Under Threats : Black Rhinos*. Chicago: Heineman library, 2004. Print.