

# MEET THE BLACK RHINO

## ABOUT ME

I have a good sense of smell and hearing, but I can't see very well so I sometimes charge objects like trees and rocks, mistaking them for threats. Did you know there are five different species of rhinos in the world? I am a black rhino, and I'm a 'browser' meaning I eat leaves, branches, shrubs and twigs.

Can you see well?

## MY FAMILY

Male rhinos are called 'bulls' and females are called 'cows'. Baby rhinos are called 'calves'. Females tend to be more sociable than the males and have a strong bond with their calves. A group of rhinos is called a 'crash'.

With whom do you have a strong bond?

## WHY WE ARE IMPORTANT

We eat large amounts of vegetation; some of us graze, and others browse. This helps shape the African landscape, benefitting other animals. I am one of Africa's big five animals; people from all over the world like to come and see me.

## OUR BIGGEST THREAT

I am an endangered mammal and my biggest threat is humans. Sadly, some people hunt us to sell our horns, which is illegal.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Black rhinos have a hooked top lip, while white rhinos have a square top lip and that is how you can tell us apart. When I am fully grown, I will weigh up to **1,500kg**. White rhinos are the largest of our species and can weigh up to **2,500kg**.

## DID YOU KNOW?

We make lots of funny noises, like growling and snorting, when we talk to each other. When we are angry, we grunt and snort. When we are scared, we make sharp, high-pitched alarm calls.

What funny noises do you make?

## WHAT WE LIKE TO EAT

I am a **HERBIVORE**. I eat leafy plants, branches, shoots, thorny wood bushes, and fruit. I look for food in the morning and evening, using my lips to strip the branches of their leaves. I like to rest, sleep or play in mud pools. The mud helps me cool down during the day when it's hot, and protects me against parasites.

Do you like playing in the mud like me?

## OUR HORNS

I have two horns on my nose. They are made of keratin and not bone. Keratin is the hard protein found in human fingernails. Like your fingernails, our horns can sometimes break off, but they do not grow back.

Do your fingernails grow as long as my horns?

## MY NAMES

Although my name is the **BLACK RHINO** or **HOOK-LIPPED RHINOCEROS**, I am actually grey. As we play in the mud we appear darker in colour.

The word 'rhinoceros' comes from Ancient Greece. 'Rhino' means 'nose' and 'ceros' means 'horn'.

Do you have more than one name?

