

WHITE RHINOCEROS



Conservation Status:
Endangered

Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Perissodactyla

Family: Rhinocerotidae

Genus: *Ceratotherium*

Species: *simum*



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FAST FACTS

Weight: 3,100 to 7,900 pounds
with males being larger than females

Length: 12 to 13 feet

Height: up to 6 feet at the shoulder

Life Span: 40-45 years

Gestation: 15 to 16 months

Number of young: 1

Range: Eastern and southern Africa

Diet: Herbivore, primarily eats grass or leaves

DID YOU KNOW?

- The name rhinoceros comes from the Greek words *rhino* (nose) and *ceros* (horn).
- A white rhinoceros' head can weigh 800 to 1,000 pounds!
- Although rhinoceros are considered *pachyderms* (thick-skinned), their skin is actually sensitive to sunburn and biting insects. That's why they like to wallow in the mud!

Ecology & Conservation

For centuries, rhinos have been hunted for the suspected medicinal value of their horn. However, like our hair and fingernails, a rhino's horn is made of keratin and has no medicinal properties. In order to prevent poaching, some countries dehorn their rhinos. This process is painless and removes the valuable horn, making it less attractive to poachers.