

TOP TEN Rhino Facts



1. Five species of rhinos exist today:
 - * Black and White (Africa)
 - * Sumatran, Javan and Indian (Asia)
2. The **White rhino** is the **third largest African animal**, after the elephant and the hippo. They are not white, but actually grey. White rhinos have three toes on each foot.
3. Rhinos are classified as **mammals**. Full grown rhinos can **weigh anywhere from 3500 - 8000 pounds**. Their **body length ranges from 8 – 13 feet long** and their **top speed can reach 34 mph**.
4. Rhinos are best known for their **giant horns** that grow from their snouts. **Rhinoceros means “nose horn.”** Javan and Indian rhinos have one horn, whereas the White, Black and Sumatran have two.
5. Despite their size, they do not prey on other animals for food. They’re **herbivores**. They like to eat grass and plants.
6. Rhinos love to lay in the mud, not just to get dirty, but because the **mud protects their skin** from the strong sun.
7. Rhinos typically will hang out by themselves. However, you might sometimes see “**crashes**”. Crash is when you do see a group of rhinos together, mostly made up of a female and her calves.
8. Rhinos have between **24 to 34 teeth**, depending on their species.
9. You will often see **Oxpeckers** that sit on rhinos. Rhinos have a lot of parasites on their hide that the birds can eat. They also make a noise to alarm the rhinos when any danger is near.
10. Rhinos **gestation lasts between 15 and 16 months**. Young rhinos will remain with their mothers until they are between **two or three years old**.

NORTHERN WHITE RHINO

SCIENTISTS'S LAST HOPE FOR SAVING THE SPECIES



There are two subspecies of white rhinos – the southern white rhino and the northern white rhino. While the population of both subspecies is rapidly decreasing, there are only two northern white rhinos in existence.

The last male, Sudan, unfortunately passed away in March of 2018 leaving only two females remaining.

With the help of science and technology, a team of conservationists is hopeful that they can use In Vitro Fertilization to preserve the species. Since the last two female northern white rhinos, Najin and Fatu, a mother and daughter duo, are both unable to conceive and too weak to carry a pregnancy to full term, scientists are working on a plan to utilize the southern white rhino as a surrogate.

The same process of IVF that many humans use today in hopes of having a baby, could be the same process that can save the northern white rhino species. The thought of using IVF to save the northern white rhinos is a huge task, however, if proven successful, this process could be used in the future to help save other endangered animals from the extinction list.

It will take scientists years and millions of dollars before they can determine if this plan will succeed. Extensive research, careful calculations and attention to detail are necessary before the team will know if the plan will work. Despite the difficulties, scientists and conservationist hold out hope based on past experience. Through protective measure implemented by conservations and government regulations, the southern white rhino was brought back from 200 to current population around 20,000.

LEARN MORE...

To learn more facts about rhinos and the initiative to save the Northern White Rhinos, you can visit the websites below:

<https://www.olpejetaconservancy.org/wildlife/rhinos/northern-white-rhinos/>

<https://rhinos.org>

You can also visit the **San Diego Zoo's Institute for Conservation Research** where their initiative is to save the rhinos through Reproductive Sciences, Conservation Genetics and using the Frozen Zoo Resources®