

For Creative Minds

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Thinking it Through

Rhinos were once found all across Africa and Asia. They are now only found in Borneo and Sumatra, Namibia, eastern Himalayas, and coastal east Africa. Can you find those locations on a map or a globe?

If hippo and rhino babies are called “calves” and the dads are called “bulls,” what do you think the moms are called? Why?

Black rhinos use their upper lips to grab and hold onto things (prehensile) much like we use our fingers. What other animals can you think of that use prehensile body parts to grab and hold onto things?

Hippos and rhinos are mammals, just like us. Can you see hair or whiskers on any of the photos? Most of us have hair on our heads. Where else do you have hair on your body? What other characteristics do mammals share?

Look back through the pictures and see how many photos of hippos you see with the red mucous showing.

A hippo’s adaptations allow it to have most of its body underwater with just its eyes, ears, and nose above water. Can you think of any other animals that have similar adaptations?



Hippo or Rhino?

1



2



3



4



5



6



Hippos spend most of their time in the water. They have a clear eyelid to help them keep eyes open underwater.

Hippos' eyes and ears are on top of their heads so they can see when sitting in water.

Hippos have a red mucus to protect their skin from sunburn.

Black rhinos use their upper lip to grab and hold onto things.

Depending on the species, rhinos spend most of their time in grasslands, wetlands, or rainforests.

Rhinos have one or two horns.

Answers: hippos: 2, 4, 6 rhinos: 1, 3, 5

True or False?

Using what you read in the book, determine whether these statements are true or false.

1 Both hippos and rhinos only live in Africa.	2 Hippos and rhinos are mammals, so they have some hair on parts of their bodies.
3 Hippos spend most of their time in the water and rhinos spend most of their time on land.	4 Hippos can hold their breath underwater for up to 5 minutes!
5 All rhinos use their upper lips to grab and hold onto things (prehensile).	6 All rhinos have one or two horns that they use to dig for food or to protect themselves.
7 Rhinos sweat a red mucus that acts as a natural sunscreen to protect them from sunburns.	8 Both hippos and rhinos eat fish and small mammals.

Answers: 1: False-rhinos also live in Asia. 2: True. 3: True. 4: True. 5: False-only black rhinos have this adaptation. 6: True. 7: False-hippos do but not rhinos. 8: False-they both eat grass.



Fun Facts

Swimming

Hippos spend most of their time in the water, but they can't swim—they gallop or bounce along the river bottom. Rhinos spend most of their time on land, but they are good swimmers.

Helping their ecosystems

After eating lots of grasses, hippos return to the water where they poop. Many fish and plankton rely on hippo poop for their food.

Many small land animals also rely on eating rhino poop. Rhino poop also helps disperse seeds.

Running

Hippos can run up to 14 mph on land and rhinos can run up to 40 mph.

How fast can you run?

Eating

Hippos can store two-days' worth of grass in their stomachs and can go up to two weeks without eating.

Babies

Hippo moms give birth to a single calf that can weigh between 50 to 110 pounds (23 to 50 kg). Calves nurse about 8 months and can even nurse underwater.

Rhino moms usually give birth to one calf but sometimes have two. The calves weigh between 88 to 140 pounds (40 to 63 kg).

Related to?

The closest relatives to hippos are pigs, whales, and dolphins!

The closest relatives to rhinos are tapis, horses, and zebras.

Size

Hippos and white rhinos are both about six feet (1.8 meters) high at the shoulders. A Sumatran rhino is only 4.8 feet (145 centimeters).

How tall are you?

Eyesight

Rhinos have poor eyesight and sometimes charge boulders or trees.

