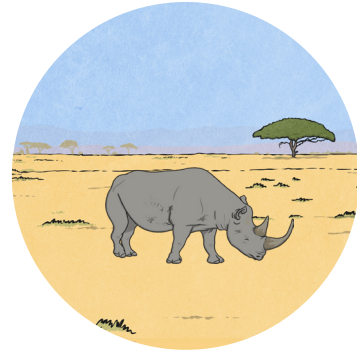


Facing Extinction: The Northern White Rhino

Planet Earth is home to five different species of rhinoceros, who are found in the wild in either Africa or Asia. They are:

- The white rhino
- The black rhino
- The Sumatran rhino
- The Javan rhino
- The Indian rhino, which is also known as the greater one-horned rhino



About Rhinos

Rhinos are herbivores, which means they only eat plants. They are the second-largest land mammal in the world; the largest is the elephant. They can weigh up to 2,500kg, which is the same as thirty adult humans. They are named after the great horns which stick out from their snouts.

Scientists believe that around 500,000 rhinos roamed across Europe, Africa and Asia at the beginning of the 1900s. However, this number is now a lot smaller; only around 30,000 are alive today around the world and very few live outside of national parks and protected reserves.

Conservation Status

Each type of animal around the world is given a conservation status rating. The different conservation status ratings are:

Extinct	Extinct in the Wild	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable	Near Threatened	Least Concern
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Worst

Best

Did You Know...?

The word 'rhinoceros' literally means 'nose-horned' in Greek.



Facing Extinction: The Northern White Rhino

The different species of rhinoceros fall under these ratings:

Species of Rhino	Javan Rhino	Sumatran Rhino	Black Rhino	Indian Rhino	White Rhino
Conservation Status	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	Vulnerable	Near Threatened
Number Alive	Approx. 67	100	5,040 – 5,458	3,500+	19,666–21,085

As a whole, the white rhino looks like the least endangered type of rhinoceros but the southern white rhino is less endangered than the northern white rhino.

	Southern White Rhino	Northern White Rhino
Conservation Status	Near Threatened	Critically Endangered Possibly Extinct in the Wild
Number Alive	Around 20,000 left in the wild.	Only two are known to exist.

Lots of southern white rhinos live happily in protected sanctuaries across Africa. However, the northern white rhino is thought to be **extinct** in the wild, with the only two known rhinos living in **captivity**.



Northern White Rhinos

Until recently, there were three northern white rhinos. They were all kept at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya. They were looked after by a team of vets and protected from poachers by security guards.

Name	Sudan	Najin	Fatu
Age	45	28	18
Sex	Male	Female	Female
Place of Birth	Sudan, Africa	Born in captivity	Born in captivity

Sadly, on 19th March 2018, the last male of the group, Sudan, became poorly and had to be put to sleep. With no male northern white rhinos alive in the world, there is little chance of any new northern white rhinos being born. This means that they could become extinct before the year 2050.

Scientists are working hard to find a way of stopping the northern white rhinos becoming extinct but time could be running out for one of the most extraordinary creatures on our planet.

Glossary

captivity: When an animal is kept somewhere and not allowed to leave, e.g. a zoo or a nature reserve.

conservation status: A title which says how likely a group of animals is to become extinct based on the number of them which still exist and the change in that number over time.

endangered: In danger of being harmed or lost.

extinct: No examples alive anymore.

Questions

1. What is the name of the only male rhino to live at Ol Pejeta Conservancy? Tick one.

- Kenya
 Najin
 Sudan
 Fatu

2. Join the boxes to show the conservation status rating of each type of rhino.

Javan

Vulnerable

Indian

Near Threatened

White

Critically Endangered

3. Which type of rhino are there only 100 living examples of?

4. Fill in the missing words in the table below:

Type of Rhino	Southern White Rhino	
Conservation Status		Critically Endangered Possibly Extinct in the Wild
Number Alive	Around 20,000 left in the wild.	

5. Find and copy a word from the text which means that **no examples of something are alive anymore**.

6. Rhinos are herbivores.

Explain what is meant by this phrase.

7. Why do you think that the northern white rhinos at Ol Pejeta Conservancy need security guards?

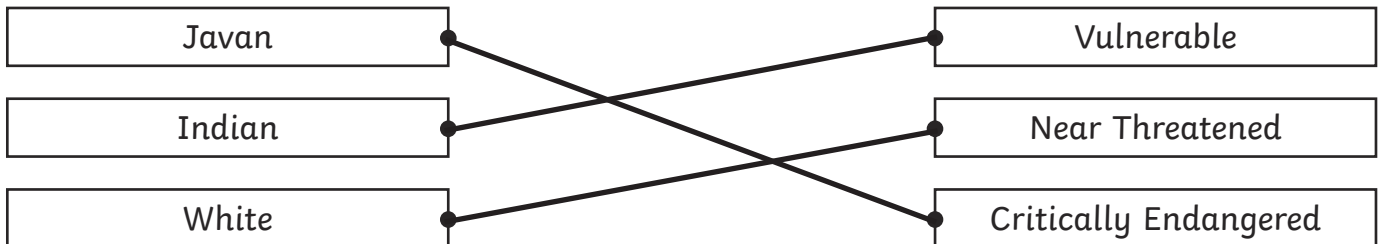
8. Why might someone not realise that the northern white rhino is close to extinction?

Answers

1. What is the name of the only male rhino to live at Ol Pejeta Conservancy? Tick one.

- Kenya
 Najin
 Sudan
 Fatu

2. Join the boxes to show the conservation status rating of each type of rhino.



3. Which type of rhino are there only 100 living examples of?

Sumatran rhino

4. Fill in the missing words in the table below:

Type of Rhino	Southern White Rhino	Northern White Rhino
Conservation Status	Near Threatened	Critically Endangered Possibly Extinct in the Wild
Number Alive	Around 20,000 left in the wild.	Only two are known to exist.

5. Find and copy a word from the text which means that **no examples of something are alive anymore.**

extinct

6. Rhinos are herbivores.

Explain what is meant by this phrase.

This phrase means that rhinos only eat plants.

7. Why do you think that the northern white rhinos at Ol Pejeta Conservancy need security guards?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the northern white rhinos need security guards to keep them safe because the species will become extinct if they get hurt.

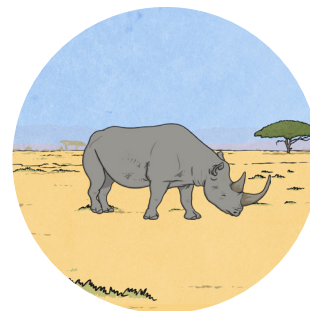
8. Why might someone not realise that the northern white rhino is close to extinction?

Pupils' own responses, such as: People may not realise that the northern white rhino is close to extinction because white rhinos are only rated as 'near threatened' and people may not know that there are two types of white rhino.

Facing Extinction: The Northern White Rhino

Planet Earth is home to five incredible species of rhinoceros, who live in Africa and the tropical rainforests and swamps of Asia. They are:

- The white rhino
- The black rhino
- The Sumatran rhino
- The Javan rhino
- The Indian rhino, commonly known as the greater one-horned rhino



About the Species

These magnificent herbivores are the second-largest land mammal in the world after the elephant. They are known to weigh up to 2,500kg, which is the same as thirty adult humans. They are named after the great horns which stick out from their snouts, as the word 'rhinoceros' literally translates from Greek as 'nose-horned'.

Despite their names, both black and white rhinoceroses are grey. Their difference is not their colour – it is the shape of their lip. The black rhino has a pointed upper lip suited to eating leaves and berries from trees, whilst the white rhino has a squared lip which helps it to graze.

Rhinoceroses once roamed freely across Europe, Africa and Asia and there were estimated to be 500,000 of them alive at the beginning of the 20th century. However, this number has dwindled to approximately 30,000 globally, with very few surviving outside of national parks and protected reserves.

Conservation Status

All known animals worldwide are grouped according to their conservation status. This means the number of them which still exist and their likelihood of becoming extinct in the near future. The different groups of conservation status are:

Extinct	Extinct in the Wild	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable	Near Threatened	Least Concern
Worst						Best

Facing Extinction: The Northern White Rhino

The different species of rhinoceros are classified:

Species of Rhino	Javan Rhino	Sumatran Rhino	Black Rhino	Indian Rhino	White Rhino
Conservation Status	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	Vulnerable	Near Threatened
Number Alive	Approx. 67	100	5,040 – 5,458	3,500+	19,666-21,085

At first, it may appear that the white rhino is the least **endangered** species of rhinoceros but this is not completely true. Within the white rhino species are two different types: the southern white rhino and the northern white rhino. Although they are very similar in name and appearance, the conservation status of these two groups could not be further apart:

	Southern White Rhino	Northern White Rhino
Conservation Status	Near Threatened	Critically Endangered Possibly Extinct in the Wild
Number Alive	Approximately 20,000 southern white rhinos remaining in the wild.	Only two northern white rhinos are known to exist worldwide

Threats to White Rhinos

Although they were once thought to be extinct, southern white rhinos now live happily in protected sanctuaries across Africa. However, the northern white rhino is thought to be entirely extinct in the wild, with the only two known rhinos living in captivity.

Facing Extinction: The Northern White Rhino

The number of northern white rhinos has reduced because of two significant factors:

- Habitat destruction. The natural home of rhinos in Africa and Asia is being destroyed so that towns and cities can be built.
- Poaching. Hundreds of rhinos are killed by poachers every year so that their horns can be sold.

Northern White Rhinos

Until recently, the last three northern white rhinos were kept at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya. They were looked after by a specialist team of vets and protected from poachers by armed security guards.

Name	Sudan	Najin	Fatu
Age	45	28	18
Sex	Male	Female	Female
Place of Birth	Sudan, Africa	Born in captivity	Born in captivity

Unfortunately, on 19th March 2018, the last male of the group, Sudan, became poorly. He had to be put to sleep to end his suffering. With no male northern white rhinos alive worldwide, there is little chance of any new off-spring. This means that the northern white rhinoceros could become extinct entirely before the year 2050.

Although scientists are working hard to find a way of creating a future generation of northern white rhinos, time could be running out for one of the most majestic and extraordinary creatures on our planet.

Glossary

captivity: When an animal is kept somewhere and not allowed to leave, e.g. a zoo or a nature reserve.

endangered: In danger of being harmed or lost.

species: A set of animals or plants which have similar characteristics to each other.

Questions

1. Which of these is not a species of rhinoceros? Tick one.

- the grey rhino
 the Javan rhino
 the white rhino
 the greater one-horned rhino

2. Draw a line to match the northern white rhino to its age.

Fatan

28

Najin

18

Sudan

45

3. How many Javan rhinos are left in the world?

4. Give one known threat to the survival of northern white rhinos in the wild.

5. Complete the missing words in the table below:

Species of Rhino	Javan Rhino	Sumatran Rhino		Indian Rhino	White Rhino
Conservation Status		Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered		
Number Alive	Approx. 67	100	5,040 – 5,458	3,500+	19,666-21,085

6. Explain the difference between the black rhino and the white rhino.

7. Explain what is meant by 'conservation status'.

8. Discuss the difference between the northern white rhino and the southern white rhino.

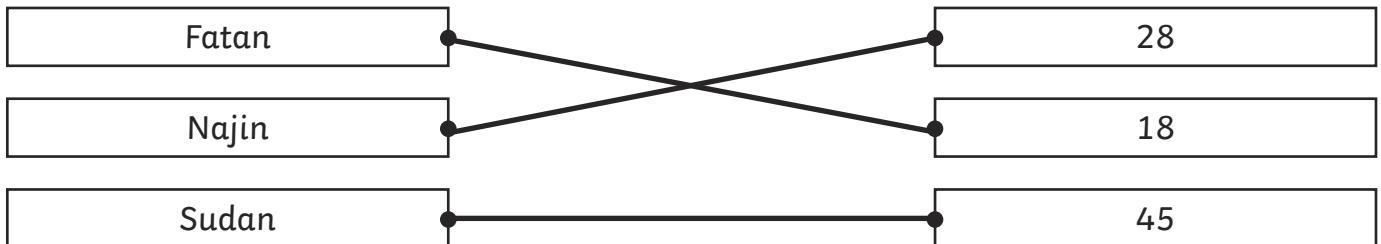
9. Do you think that northern white rhinos will become extinct? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Which of these is not a species of rhinoceros? Tick one.

- the grey rhino
- the Javan rhino
- the white rhino
- the greater one-horned rhino

2. Draw a line to match the northern white rhino to its age.



3. How many Javan rhinos are left in the world?

Approximately 67

4. Give one known threat to the survival of northern white rhinos in the wild.

Accept one of the following (or any sentence which has the same meaning): habitat destruction; poaching.

5. Complete the missing words in the table below:

Species of Rhino	Javan Rhino	Sumatran Rhino	Black Rhino	Indian Rhino	White Rhino
Conservation Status	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	Vulnerable	Near Threatened
Number Alive	Approx. 67	100	5,040 – 5,458	3,500+	19,666-21,085

6. Explain the difference between the black rhino and the white rhino.

The black rhino has a pointed upper lip suited to eating leaves and berries from trees, whilst the white rhino has a squared lip which helps it to graze.

7. Explain what is meant by 'conservation status'.

Conservation status is a rating given to animals based on the number of them which still exist and their likelihood of becoming extinct in the near future.

8. Discuss the difference between the northern white rhino and the southern white rhino.

The southern white rhino is near threatened and there are approximately 20,000 of them still living in the wild, whereas the northern white rhino is critically endangered and only two are known to exist in the world.

9. Do you think that northern white rhinos will become extinct? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, because there is little chance of creating any new northern white rhinos after the death of Sudan so the species will die out.

Facing Extinction: The Northern White Rhino

Planet Earth is home to five incredible species of rhinoceros, namely the white rhino and the black rhino, which live in Africa, and the Sumatran rhino, Javan rhino and Indian (commonly known as the greater one-horned) rhino, which all live within the tropical rainforests and swamps of Asia.

These magnificent herbivores, which are known to weigh up to 2,500kg (the equivalent of thirty adult humans), are named after the great horns which protrude from their snouts, with the word 'rhinoceros' translating from its Greek origins as 'nose-horned'. They are the second-largest land mammal in the world after the elephant.



Interestingly, both black and white rhinoceroses are grey, despite their names. Their difference comes not from the colour of their skin but from the shape of their lip; the black rhino has a pointed upper lip suited to retrieving leaves and berries from trees, whilst the white rhino has a squared lip more suitable for grazing.

Once roaming freely across Europe, Africa and Asia, the estimated 500,000 rhinos alive at the beginning of the 20th century have now significantly dwindled to approximately 30,000 globally, with very few surviving outside of national parks and protected reserves.

All known animals worldwide are classified according to their conservation status – the number of the species which still exist and their likelihood of becoming extinct in the near future. The scale of classification of **conservation** status is:

Extinct	Extinct in the Wild	Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable	Near Threatened	Least Concern
Worst Scenario			Best Scenario			

Facing Extinction: The Northern White Rhino

The different species of rhinoceros are classified:

Species of Rhino	Javan Rhino	Sumatran Rhino	Black Rhino	Indian Rhino	White Rhino
Conservation Status	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	Vulnerable	Near Threatened
Number Alive	Approx. 67	100	5,040 – 5,458	3,500+	19,666–21,085

Although, at first glance, it may appear that the white rhino is the least endangered species of rhinoceros, this is not strictly accurate. Within the white rhino species are two sub-species of rhinoceros: the southern white rhino and the northern white rhino. Although very similar in both name and appearance, the conservation status of these two sub-species could not be further apart:

	Southern White Rhino	Northern White Rhino
Conservation Status	Near Threatened	Critically Endangered Possibly Extinct in the Wild
Number Alive	Approximately 20,000 southern white rhinos remaining in the wild.	Only two northern white rhinos are known to exist worldwide

Once thought to be completely extinct, southern white rhinos now thrive in protected sanctuaries across Africa and make up the majority of all rhinos worldwide. However, the northern white rhino is thought to be entirely extinct in the wild, with the only two known surviving rhinos kept in captivity.

Facing Extinction: The Northern White Rhino

The steep decline in the number of northern white rhinos is due to two significant factors:

- Habitat destruction. The natural home of rhinos in Africa and Asia is being destroyed so that towns and cities can be built.
- Poaching. Hundreds of rhinos are needlessly killed by poachers every year so that their horns can be sold.

Until recently, the last three northern white rhinos on Earth resided at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya, looked after by a specialist veterinary team and protected from poachers by armed security guards.

Name	Sudan	Najin	Fatu
Age	45	28	18
Sex	Male (bull)	Female (cow)	Female (cow)
Place of Birth	Sudan, Africa	Born in captivity	Born in captivity

Unfortunately, on 19th March 2018, the last male of the sub-species, Sudan, became poorly and was put to sleep to end his suffering. With no northern white bulls alive worldwide, chances of any new off-spring within the sub-species are incredibly slim – meaning that the northern white rhinoceros could become extinct entirely before the year 2050.



Although scientists work tirelessly in an attempt to discover ways of ensuring a future generation of northern white rhino, time could be running out for one of the most majestic and extraordinary creatures on our planet.

Questions

1. How many northern white rhinos now exist worldwide? Tick one.

- one
- two
- three
- four

2. Number the sentences from 1 to 5 to show the order they appear in the text.

- The Sumatran rhino is a critically endangered species.
- 1 Rhinoceroses can weigh up to the equivalent of thirty adult humans.
- Fatu, a female northern white rhino, was born in captivity.
- The number of rhinoceroses globally has dwindled to approximately 30,000.
- The destruction of their natural habitat has caused a steep decline in the number of northern white rhinos.

3. What is the Indian rhino more commonly known as?

4. Where in the wild are you likely to find a Javan rhino?

5. 'are known to exist'

What does this phrase imply?

6. Explain why the rhinoceros was given its name.

7. Comment on the decline of wild rhinos since 1900.

8. Explain two causes of the decline in the global rhino population.

9. Discuss two measures taken to ensure the wellbeing of the remaining northern white rhinos in captivity.

10. Black rhinos and white rhinos are different colours.
Is this true? Fully explain your answer using evidence from the text.

Questions

1. How many northern white rhinos now exist worldwide? Tick one.

- one
- two
- three
- four

2. Number the sentences from 1 to 5 to show the order they appear in the text.

- 3 The Sumatran rhino is a critically endangered species.
- 1 Rhinoceroses can weigh up to the equivalent of thirty adult humans.
- 5 Fatu, a female northern white rhino, was born in captivity.
- 2 The number of rhinoceroses globally has dwindled to approximately 30,000.
- 4 The destruction of their natural habitat has caused a steep decline in the number of northern white rhinos.

3. What is the Indian rhino more commonly known as?

The greater one-horned rhino

4. Where in the wild are you likely to find a Javan rhino?

You are likely to find a Javan rhino within the tropical rainforests and swamps of Asia.

5. 'are known to exist'

What does this phrase imply?

This phrase implies that more may exist than that but these are the only ones that are known about.

6. Explain why the rhinoceros was given its name.

The rhinoceros was given its name because of the large horn which protrudes from its snout. The word rhinoceros means 'nose-horned'.

7. Comment on the decline of wild rhinos since 1900.

An estimated 500,000 rhinos were alive at the beginning of the 20th century however this number has now reduced to approximately 30,000 globally, with very few surviving outside of national parks and protected reserves.

8. Explain two causes of the decline in the global rhino population.

Two causes of the decline in the global rhino population are the destruction of their habitat, so that towns and cities can be built, and poaching.

9. Discuss two measures taken to ensure the wellbeing of the remaining northern white rhinos in captivity.

Two measures taken to ensure the wellbeing of the remaining northern white rhinos are that they are looked after by a specialist veterinary team and they are protected by armed security guards.

10. Black rhinos and white rhinos are different colours.

Is this true? Fully explain your answer using evidence from the text.

This is not true. Both black and white rhinoceroses are grey, despite their names. Their difference comes not from the colour of their skin but from the shape of their lip; the black rhino has a pointed upper lip suited to retrieving leaves and berries from trees, whilst the white rhino has a squared lip more suitable for grazing.