



World Rhino Day:

Rhino Sight Challenge

In this activity, participants will learn about rhino senses.

Age: Children ages 8 - 12

Gather your Gear

- At least two people
- Open space (inside or outside)
- Pipe cleaners
- Plastic wrap

Get Ready *You can help your child make connections by thinking about concepts before the activity.*

There are five main senses: sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch. What sense do you think you rely on the most?

Rhino species have small eyes on each side of their large, wide heads. Researchers in the wild have noticed that if an object is stationary (not moving) rhinos don't seem to pay attention to it. However, once it moves, they may react. This leads scientists to think that rhinos have **poor eyesight**. Rhinos rely on other senses like smell and hearing to navigate and survive in the wild.

In this activity, you will create glasses to mimic rhino eyesight and navigate an obstacle course.

Activity Instructions: Rhino Sight Challenge

- **Mimic rhino eyesight:** Use the pipe cleaners to create eyeglasses. Bonus points for style! Add at least five layers of clear plastic wrap around each eyeglass hole. This should allow you to still see, but not very well.
- **Create your obstacle course:** Find an open space, inside or outside. Mark a start area and a finish line. Use household materials as obstacles to either go around, over, or under. You can make it as easy or as difficult as you like. Just make sure that your parent or guardian checks it for safety.
- **See like a rhino:** Put on your rhino eyesight glasses and go through the obstacle course as quickly (but safely) as possible.
- **Use your other senses:** After you've attempted the obstacle course with just the rhino eyeglasses, try it again with another sense available. Have another person yell out instructions as you go through the objects. Does this help you go through the course easier?

Recap *Have a conversation about what you saw/did and questions your child may have.*

- What senses do rhinos use the most?

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- Why do rhinos not have very good eyesight?
- What was it like going through the obstacle course with the rhino eyesight glasses? Was it easy or hard? What senses did you rely on to safely make it through the course?

Relate *Create connections to the idea through activities.*

Rhinos are poached for their horns which are made of keratin, the same material as your fingernails and hair. Though there is no scientific evidence that rhino horn has any medicinal value, consumers around the world use it in traditional remedies for various ailments. The poaching rate is slowly catching up to the birth rate, and we could see the extinction of several rhino species in our lifetime.

You can help by spreading the word about these amazing creatures and the threats that endanger them in the wild.

It takes a team.... join ours

Help us save species by joining the "Zoo Conservation Corps" and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both is so important. If your family members are on social media, post to show what you have learned, and use the hashtags #OnlyZooATL and #WorldRhinoDay so that we can see all your great work!

Want to know more?

- For more on World Rhino Day and rhino conservation, go to: <https://rhinos.org/>
- Visit Zoo Atlanta so see Mumbles and learn more about white rhinos!