

World Rhino Day:



Rhino Says!

In this activity, kids will learn about rhino behaviors.

Age: Children ages 5 - 10

Gather your Gear

- At least three people
- Open space (inside or outside) free from obstacles
- Your voice and your ears!

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

There are five rhinoceros species in the world. Zoo Atlanta has a southern white rhino named Mumbles. The southern white rhino is among the most recognizable of all of Africa's large mammals, standing up to 6 feet tall at the shoulder and weighing up to 6,000 pounds. White rhinos are distinguished from black rhinos by their size and by the shape of their upper lip. The "white" aspect of the name comes from an Afrikaans word meaning "wide."

White rhinos are considered the most social of all the rhinos. Offspring usually stay with their mothers until the next calf is born. Larger, temporary groups of 14 or more individuals are often seen, usually made up of immature individuals or mothers without calves. A group of rhinos is called a crash.

In this activity, you will get to behave like a rhino (and work on your listening skills).

Activity Instructions: Rhino Says!

- This game is a variation of *Simon Says*.
- One person will be the leader, and the others will be the rhinos.
- The leader will tell the "rhinos" what to do. But only do what the leader says if they say "*Rhino says...*" before the command.
- The leader will call out one of eight commands:
 - **...Charge!** (stampede toward the opposite end of the space)
 - Due to their poor eyesight, rhinos tend to charge at things they believe may be dangerous to them. In this case, you are charging toward the other end of the room/space.
 - **...Wallow!** (drop to the ground, and pretend to roll around in mud)
 - Wallowing means to roll around or lie relaxed in water or mud. Rhinos wallow in mud or water to help keep them cool on hot days. The mud can also act as a sunscreen and bug repellent!
 - **...Explore!** (look around the room and pretend to look for "grass" and "shrubs" to eat)

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- White rhinos are known for their flat, wide upper lips. These are integral parts of their feeding adaptations since they enable the animals to graze on short grasses. These flat lips allow the rhinos to get low to the ground and consume the grasses with ease. Because of this ability, white rhinos are pure grazers in the wild.
- **...Snort!** (snort, bellow, or grunt like a rhino)
 - Rhinos are usually quiet, but they still have a wide range of sounds to communicate in various ways, including grunts, growls, bellows, snorts, and trumpeting.
- **...Socialize!** (go up to another “rhino” and talk)
 - Most rhinoceros species are solitary, but not the white rhino! White rhinos are considered to be the most social as they are often seen in groups.
- **...Find shade!** (find shade or - if inside - get creative and find something in the room that would provide shade)
 - To take a break from the hot African sun, rhinos will often find shade to rest in.
- **...Horn!** (use your hand/arm to make it look like you have a rhino horn on your forehead)
 - Rhinos are easily recognizable due to their horns on their head. Some people try to get rhino horns because they believe they are valuable, but the truth is that their horns are mostly made up of keratin, which is the same protein found in your fingernails!
- **...Wiggle your ears!** (cup your hands and hold them on top of your head. Wiggle and swivel them around)
 - Rhinos have poor eyesight, so they need to depend on their hearing to be aware of their surroundings. They can wiggle and swivel their ears around to better hear what is around them.
- Begin the game! Rhinos - be careful! You have to make sure that you hear the phrase “*Rhino says...*” before any of the commands, otherwise - you’re out!
- Continue the game until one “rhino” remains.

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

- What type of rhino does Zoo Atlanta have? What is his name?
- What is a group of rhinos called?
- What are some rhino behaviors?

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 remedies for various ailments. Horns are also carved for decorative

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purposes, or sold as symbols of social status. 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! When traveling in areas where rhinos live, be a responsible consumer and make sure you aren't purchasing anything that could potentially contain rhino products. Also, spreading the word about these amazing creatures and the threats that endanger them in the wild can help their future survival.

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!