



#8643

BLACK AND WHITE RHINOS

Grade Levels: 5-12

26 minutes

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DESCRIPTION

What weighs 6,000 pounds, has poor vision, and a horn growing on its nose? A rhinoceros, of course! Solio Ranch in Kenya is a private wildlife sanctuary for black and white rhinos. Explains the differences and similarities between these animals, and notes poachers want only the rhino's horn for Asian and Middle Eastern markets. Shocking statistics emphasize the urgency to protect this unique species. NOTE: One brief mating scene.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Life Sciences

- ◆ Standard: Understands relationships among organisms and their physical environment
 - Benchmark: Knows that all organisms (including humans) cause changes in their environments, and these changes can be beneficial or detrimental

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To become aware of why rhinos are poached.
2. To identify the differences between white and black rhinos.
3. To create an awareness of rhinos as an endangered species.
4. To stimulate interest in protecting endangered species.

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Locate Kenya on a map. How many rhinos would you estimate live there?
2. Over the last 30 years, thousands of rhinos have been killed by poachers. What makes them so valuable?
3. How do you think poachers can be stopped from slaughtering the rhinos?

AFTER SHOWING

1. Describe three differences between white and black rhinos. Do any of these differences affect their diet or habits?

2. Why are rhinos' horns so valuable? What are their uses? How would you resolve the clash of values between cultures that value rhino horns so highly and the precarious position of the rhino? How can rhino poaching be stopped?
3. Courtland Parfet has been criticized for running a private zoo and playing God with the gene pool. Do you think these criticisms are justified?
4. Is the fencing in of wildlife a viable solution to the problem of endangered species? Should both government and private landowners play a role in conservation efforts?

SUMMARY



Courtland Parfet was once a mining tycoon and big-game hunter with little interest in conservation, and then he bought a ranch in Kenya. He credits his wife, Claude, a wildlife photographer, with his remarkable transformation.

Parfet not only stopped shooting rhinos, he also prevented the extinction of the black rhinos by erecting a 33-mile electric fence around his property and hiring armed guards to patrol it.

In 1970 the world's black rhino population stood at 20,000. But the next 15 years saw a slaughter that reduced their number to only 300! Faced with the possibility of the species' extinction, the Kenya Wildlife Service rounded up almost all of the country's remaining black rhinos and put them behind Parfet's fence—the only place where they could really be safe.

Parfet added white rhinos and brought in more black rhinos from southern Africa to prevent in-breeding. Today Solio Ranch's black rhino population has more than doubled to 50 from 23, and the ranch's white rhino population stands at 71. The Kenya Wildlife Service has relocated some animals from Solio to national parks, as the rhinos slowly make a painstaking—and extremely expensive—comeback.

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- A First Look at Elephants and Rhinos #3123
- Protecting Endangered Animals #2000



World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid-safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **WILDNET AFRICA**

<http://www.wildnetafrika.com/rhino/index.html>

The Virtual Rhino park with photographs and descriptions of various species.

- **SOS RHINO**

<http://www.sosrhino.org>

SOS Rhino is dedicated to the preservation and conservation of rhino species.

- **KILIMANJARO ADVENTURE TRAVEL**

<http://www.kilimanjaro.com/rhinoark/rhinos.htm>

Black rhino population estimates from the Kenya Wildlife Service.

- **RHINO INFORMATION**

<http://www.rhinos-irf.org/rhinos/>

This International Rhino Foundation shows statistics on the surviving number of 5 kinds of rhinos. Also explains the characteristics of each. Click on a few other buttons to learn more.

