

*What  
Is  
A  
Rhinoceros?*

By Debbie Nicholson

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# What Is A Rhinoceros?

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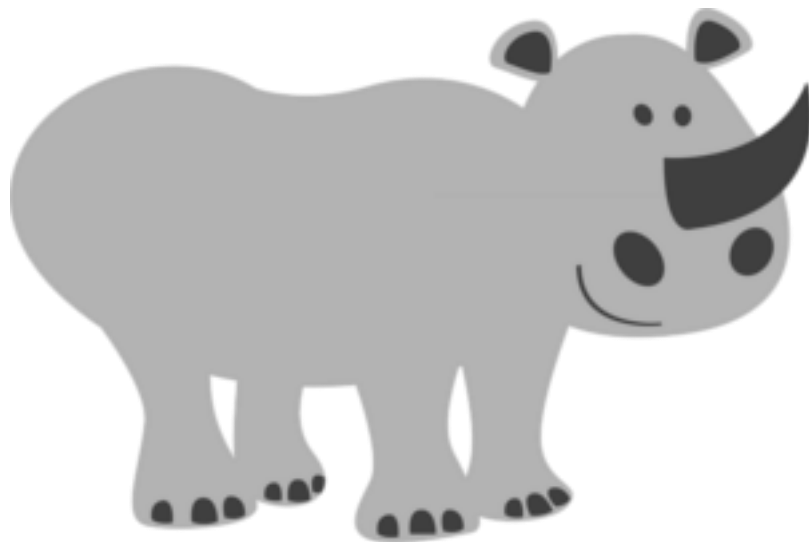
Picton, Marlborough, New Zealand

The name Rhinoceros is usually shortened to the word Rhino.

***Rhinoceros***

***Rhino***

The name Rhinoceros is  
from the Greek language and  
means nose-horned.



The Rhino is one of five hoofed mammals with odd toes. The others are the Tapir, Zebra, Ass and the Horse.



There are two species of Rhino in Africa and three species in Southern Asia.



Many of these five species of Rhinos weigh one tonne or more.  
Sumatran, Black, Indian,  
White, Javan



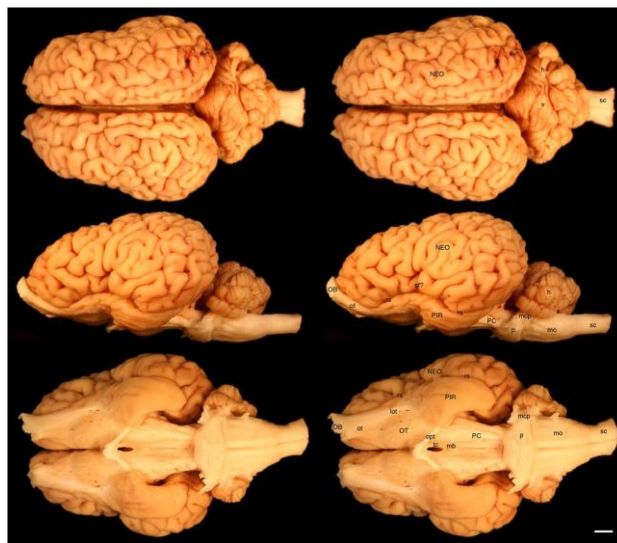
They feed on leafy and/or fibrous plants as their main diet.





The two species that come from Africa do not have any teeth in the front and pluck their food from the plants with their lips.

Their brains are very small  
for their body size.



They either have one or two horns.

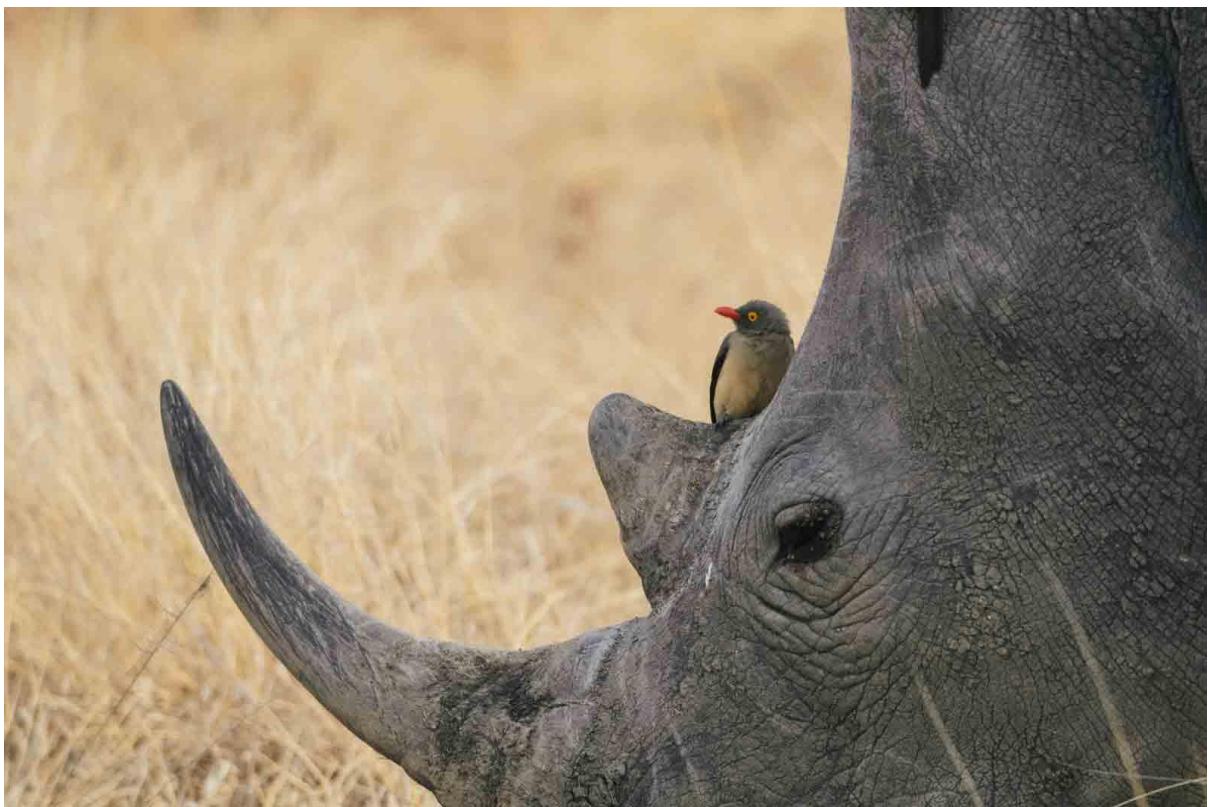


Their skin is very thick.



Rhinos are near-sighted. They use their sense of smell and their fantastic hearing abilities to find each other.

The oxpecker is a bird that hangs around with the rhinos.



They like to pick at the bugs that live on the skin of the rhino. These bugs provide ample food for the oxpecker.



The oxpecker is also a useful alarm bell because when danger lurks, the oxpecker calls out to its friend and warns the rhino that it is in immediate danger.





Rhinos make a cute sound when they are happiest being a sound that escapes their lips sounding like "mmwonk".

[Rhino Sounds](#)

The horns are used for medicines,  
dagger handles or just for  
ornaments.



Once the horns are ground up, the powder is used for medicines



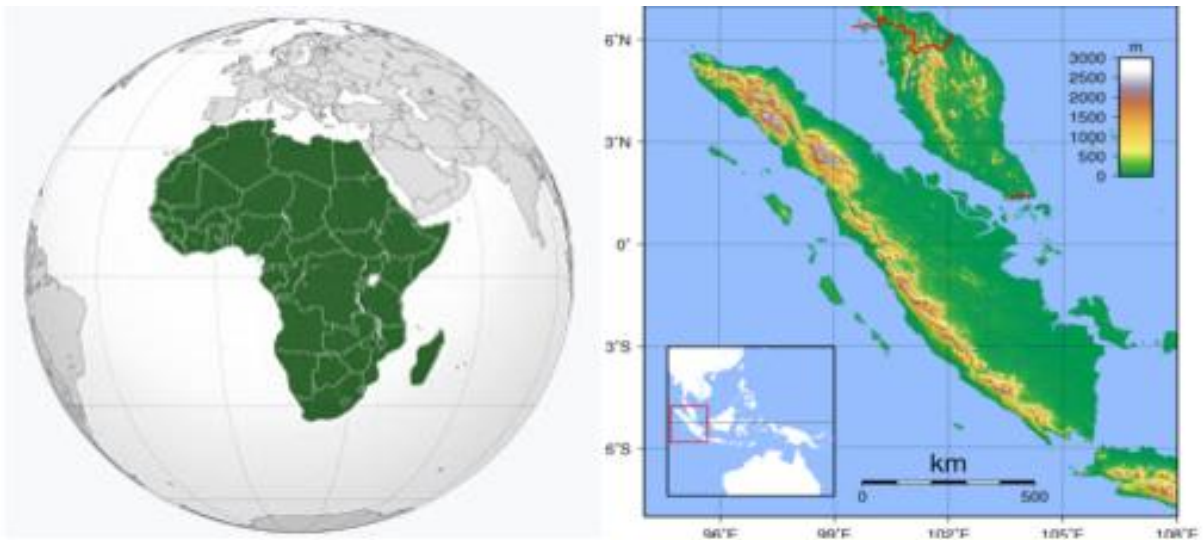
because the horns are made of a protein substance called keratin



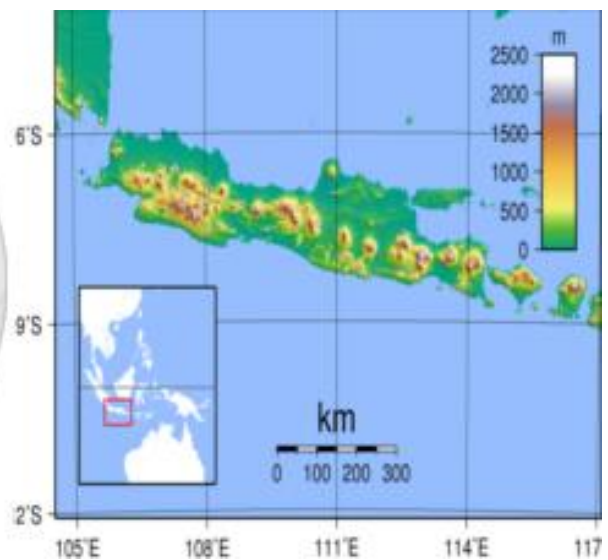
which is what our hair and fingernails are made of.



The two-horned Rhinos come from Sumatra and Africa.



The one-horned Rhinos come from  
Java and India.



Lots of Rhinos in a group are called either a herd or a crash but crash is preferred.





There are two types of White Rhino:  
The Southern White Rhino and the  
Northern White Rhino.



The Black Rhino have long pointed lips and their faces point upward - great for eating leafy green types of food.



While the White Rhino have broad flat lips and their faces point downward always close to the ground which are better for grazing.



Males weigh  
2,400 kg (5,000 lb)  
and can be up to  
fifteen feet long  
standing up to 6.6  
feet tall when  
measured against  
you, the reader.

There are  
four types of  
Black Rhino:

# Eastern Black Rhino



## South Central Black Rhino



## South Western Rhino





and the West African Rhino that  
was declared extinct in 2011.



The Indian Rhino only has one horn which can measure from 20cm to 60cm long.



Its skin looks like it is wearing armour because it is silver-brown in colour, is very thick and has many folds.



There are bumps that look like warts on the top of its legs and up on its shoulders.



Indian Rhinos used to roam many countries. However, now they live in protected areas.



There are not  
many Javan  
Rhinos left in  
the world  
now.

Sumatran Rhinos like to live among the reed beds in the floodplains and mud wallows, rain forests and tall grasses.



Sumatran Rhinos are a reddish-brown colour.





Rhinos have short stubby legs.



In order to help them survive, all of the Rhino species need to be relocated to supervised breeding programmes.



The Nashville Zoo's white rhino breeding program features four females and a male named TC

Predators like the hyenas, African wild dogs, crocodiles and other big cats are only a danger to young Rhino.



Humans are the biggest threats to Rhinos, who catch them when they are drinking from the water holes.

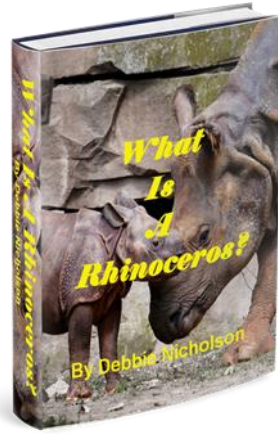
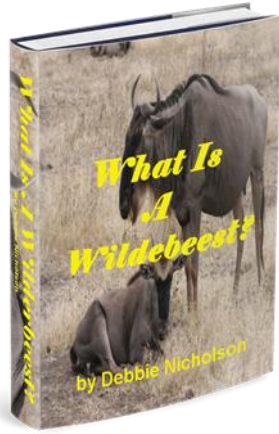
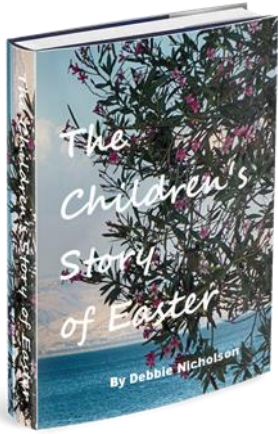


There will be more books on animals coming in the future.

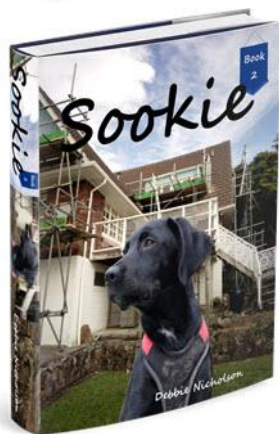
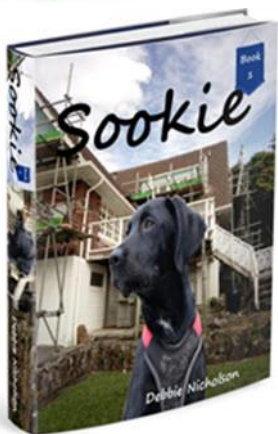
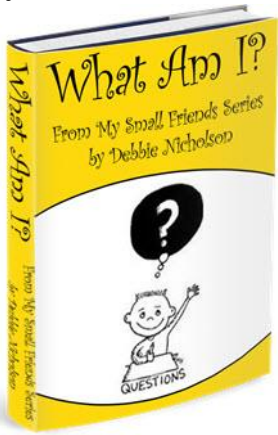


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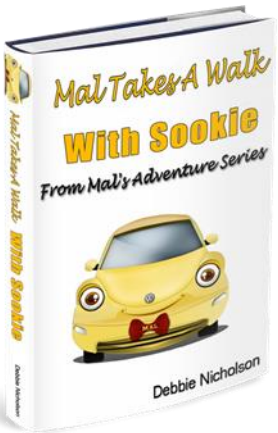
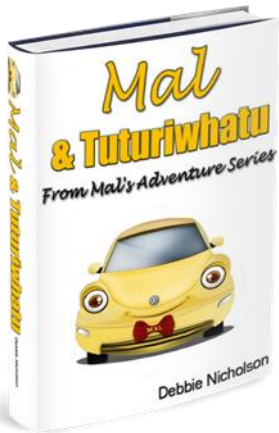
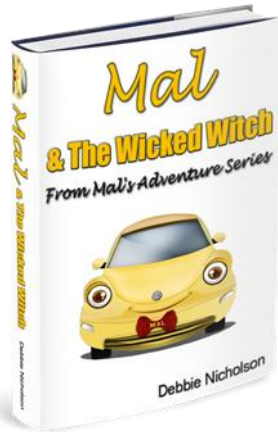
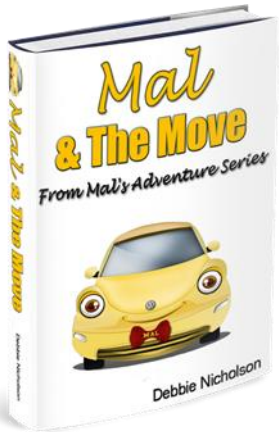


## My Small Friends Series



\* \* \* \* \*

## Mal's Adventure Series



\* \* \* \* \*

## Acknowledgments

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Also, Very Special Thanks

For Artwork



### *Author Contributions*

AB and PM collected the brains. MH undertook the MR imaging of the brains. AB and PM prepared the draft of the manuscript, which was edited by MH.

The authors are grateful to the National Zoological Gardens of South Africa (Pretoria, South Africa) and Wildlife Assignments International (Hammanskraal, South Africa) for allowing us to harvest the tissue from the two rhinoceros specimens.

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fnana.2017.00074/full>

Photos: The Red List of Threatened Species

<https://edition.cnn.com/2011/11/10/world/africa/rhino-extinct-species-report/index.html>

Sumatran rhinoceros at the Cincinnati Zoo in Cincinnati, Ohio By Ltshears - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=11574167>



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Rhino chewing on grass

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Indian White Single horn

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Oxpecker

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Indian closely related to Javan

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South Central Black Rhino

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South Western Rhino

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One Horned Indian Rhino

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian\\_rhinoceros#/media/File:Sa-indianrhino.JPG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_rhinoceros#/media/File:Sa-indianrhino.JPG)

Rhino around the watering hole –

Source: Cape2009 Panomario

<https://www.thedodo.com/the-truth-about-rhinos-671403034.html>

Rhino playing with wildebeest

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2z79OdGgm0>

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[Habitat](#)

Sumatran reddish-brown colour

Sumatran Habitat

Black Rhino Sub-Species

Southern Black Rhinoceros

Eastern Black Rhinoceros

## **Keywords**

2011

Africa

African plains

African wild dog

alarm

animal

Animal Journeys

armour

Ass

big cats

bird

Black Rhino

Black Rhinoceros

Brains

breeding programmes

central nervous system

Crash

crocodile

dagger handles



danger

Diet

extinct

feeding

fibrous

floodplains

Food

Grass

Grassland animals

Greek

Hair

hearing

herd

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Horse

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Jungle Animals

Keratin

lion

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Mammal

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Northern Rhino

Northern Rhinoceros

Northern White Rhino

Northern White Rhinoceros

nose

nose-horned

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oxpecker

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Southern White Rhino

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Sumatra

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surface anatomy

Survival

Tapir

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*Debbie Nicholson*

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

*Debbie Nicholson* is an author with several books already published in the Amazon Kindle Store, several of them best sellers beginning that journey with humour, then progressing into motivation, animals, health and children's poetry. She lives in a motor home in New Zealand with her husband, enjoying a retired lifestyle with touring their country as their projected main focus. Family is important in Debbie's life as are her spiritual interests. She also gives back and in so doing, pursues a career in helping budding entrepreneurs to bring themselves up through the ranks so they can create lifestyles whereby they can live the life of their dreams and on their own terms.

