

# Crash into rhinos in Africa

Wildlife safaris started in East Africa. So, we are off to Nairobi, Kenya in East Africa on our World Wildlife Safari!

Kenya sits along the Equator, touching the Indian Ocean. It is about twice the size of Nevada. The climate is tropical along the coast with arid areas inland. There are fertile highlands in the west.

Kenya's official language is English. About 85% of the people can read and write.

The people come from 40 different ethnic groups. A majority are Christian. Some are Muslim and others observe native religions.

The continent of Africa is second only to Asia in land area and population. The United Nations says it is the world's poorest continent.

West of Nairobi at Lake Nakuru National Park, the endangered rhinoceros find a safe home. The prehistoric-looking rhinoceros are some of the largest mammals left on the planet.

Rhinoceros means nose



horn in Greek. A rhino's horn can be up to five feet long.

Two species of rhinos live in Africa, black and white. Both species are gray with two horns.

The black rhino lives in the rugged hills and brushy plains of eastern and southern Africa. It eats shrubs and trees. Black rhinos weigh 2,000 to 3,000 pounds. They appear black because they wallow in dark mud.

The larger white rhino lives in central and southern Africa. It likes savannas and woodlands where it eats grass. White rhinos weigh 4,000 to 6,000 pounds. They are six feet tall and about 14 feet long.

White rhinos have wide, square lips that are perfect for grazing. Their name comes from the Afrikaans word "weit" which means wide.

Rhinos are solitary and establish territories. They use their horns to defend their territory. They also use them to protect themselves from lions, tigers and hyenas.

Rhinoceros are hunted for their horns. Some cultures believe that powdered rhino horn can cure just about anything. Killing and trading in rhinos is now illegal, but poaching continues.

Rhinos also suffer from loss of habitat.

Just 35 years ago, 65,000 black rhinos lived in Africa. Today, the population is 3,610.

White rhinos were widely hunted in the early 20th century and almost became extinct. The nation of South Africa led the conservation efforts. The white rhino population has rebounded to over 11,000 today.

However, the northern white rhino subspecies is in critical danger. Only five to 10 of the animals still live in the wild. That subspecies may disappear very soon.

A group of rhinos is called a "crash." The Kid certainly doesn't want to crash into even one rhinoceros.

We'll watch from a distance, thank you.

## Scrambled Nations

Unscramble these names of African nations

N A Y E K

P E G T Y

A G I N E R I

Z A B I A M

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For the *Kid* in You



## Newspaper in Education activity

- In your newspaper, find words that begin with the letters R, H, I, N and O.
- Find the subject and the verb in a headline on the front page.
- Find a word that means "big."
- Find a quotation in a story.