WILDLIFEDIRECT

Newsletter
Issue #18
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WILDLIFE WARRIORS KIDS

Hello Wildlife Warriors!
Stay connected to nature even when you are at home.

Sudan: The Last Northern Male Northern White Rhino

© Paula Kahumbu / WildlifeDirect

Welcome to the 18th issue. This week we feature **Rhinos!** Did you know that rhinos are very clever and are the second largest land mammals? **Please read on!**

Have you entered Season Two of the Nature's Treasure's Photo Competition? Are you using any tips on how to take the best photos from past issues so that you can submit great photos into the competition?

Stay with us on this fun-filled adventure and always remember to share with your family and friends.

CONGRATULATIONS KYLA MWANGI

" Truly daisies look prettiest on a rainy day"

Kyla Mwangi (14yrs) from Kenya won the Wildlife Warriors Nature's Treasures Photo Competition Junior Category on the theme **Fins, Feathers, and Flowers.**

The Judges were impressed by the beautiful yet simple image of an **African Daisy.** Have you ever seen this flower? Kyla won Ksh 2000!

Season 2 of the Nature's Treasures Competition is ongoing!!! Submit up to 3 photos on the theme: "Funny and Cute Wildlife" by September 25th. You too could win!

PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS BY KYLA

We spoke to Kyla about her photo!

Q: What Camera did you Use?

A: Canon 2500D

Q: What top tips would you offer an upcoming young person interested in nature photography?

A:

- Use what you have and be creative because you cannot get everything you need. For example, I used an old canon camera that belonged to my dad, who is my inspiration and a photographer, and made a DIY diffuser.

- Take your time to practice and do not rush it until you get it right.

- Read about the type of photography you would like to do.

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS

NATURE'S TREASURES PHOTO COMPETITION

Prizes!

Professional Category
Winner KES 5000
Runner up KES 3000

Amateur Category
Winner KES 3500
Runner up KES 2000

Junior Category (Under 15 years)
Winner KES 2000
Runner up KES 1000

Open to photographers in East Africa!

Theme: FUNNY AND CUTE WILDLIFE (Sept 12th to Sept 25th)
Enter up to 3 photos to bit.ly/WildlifeWarriorsEA

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Nature photography stimulates children to develop their ideas on design!

Are you 15 years old and below? Submit your photos under the Junior Category in the Wildlife Warriors Nature's Treasures Photo Competition.

Theme; FUNNY AND CUTE WILDLIFE. Share up to 3 photos here http://bit.ly/WildlifeWarriorsEA

Go Out. Explore. Take Photos. Share. Win.

UNDERSTANDING RHINOS

Southern White Rhino courtesy of Chintan Gohel

Vocabulary

Browsers: Herbivores that feed on leaves, shoots on trees and shrubs

Grazers; Herbivores that feed on grasses and low vegetation

Keratin: The substance that makes our hair and nails

The name Rhinoceros comes from 2 Greek words "Rhino" meaning **nose** and "ceros" meaning **horn**. All species have either one or two horns on the nose.

Did you know that…

Southern White Rhinos

- There are five species of rhinos in the world; 3 are native to Asia while 2 are native to Africa.
- Rhino horn is made of keratin, just like our fingernails and hair.
- They have a very good sense of smell and can hear very well but are short-sighted; they don't see very well.
- They can run up to 50 Kph speeds and eat up to 50 kilos of vegetation per day.
- Rhinos can live up to 30-35 years in the wild.

Black Rhino courtesy of Joy Omulupi

- A group of Rhinos is called a Crash. Crashes can be made up of six individuals or more, usually females with their calves and a solitary male nearby.
- Rhinos can sleep up to 8 hours a day.
- Females give birth to one calf at a time after a gestation period of 15-16 months.
- A male rhino is called a Bull; a female is called a Cow and the baby is called a Calf.
- Rhinos have a special relationship with a bird called an Oxpecker. Oxpeckers warn the rhino of incoming danger and in turn, they get to eat insects and ticks found on the rhino's body.

1. AFRICAN RHINOS

Black Rhinos (Scientific name: *Diceros bicornis*)

- Black Rhinos are native to Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe and are critically endangered. They are smaller in size than the White Rhinos.

Black Rhino mother and young calf courtesy of Ol Pejeta Conservancy

- **There are four subspecies of Black Rhinos;** The Eastern Black Rhino, Southern Central Black Rhino, South Western Black Rhino and the now extinct Western Black Rhino.

Black Rhinos

Black Rhino courtesy of Nicky Musau

- Males weigh about 1,350kgs while females are usually 900kgs. Calves are 30-45kgs at birth.
- They only have hair on their ears, eyelashes, and the tips of their tails.
- Black rhinos are aggressive and usually live a solitary life.
- They are browsers and feed on twigs, leaves, and shrubs. They don't eat grass.
- They have two horns which grow the longest compared to the other rhinos.
- Black Rhinos have a pointed upper lip for browsing.
- It is estimated that there are 5,600 Black Rhinos in the world.

Western Black Rhinos (*D. bicornis longipes*)

- The Western Black Rhino was declared extinct (No longer existing) in 2011.
- It was once widespread in the savanna of sub-Saharan Africa, but its numbers declined due to poaching.
- They lived in Cameroon, but surveys since 2006 have failed to locate any living individuals.
- Rhinos are killed for their horns which some people believe can cure cancer or as a symbol or wealth.

Have you ever seen a **Black Rhino** or a **White Rhino**?

Where Did you see one?

Share with us your first encounter with one through

SMS or WhatsApp text to 0746 511 787

and we will share with other kids

White Rhinos (Scientific name: ***Ceratotherium simum***)

White Rhinos

- White Rhinos are the second largest land mammal after the elephant and can weigh up to 3,500kgs.
- They are also dark grey in color and not as aggressive as black rhinos.
- They get their name "White" from an Afrikaans (Language in South Africa) word, 'wyd' which means **Wide;** that describes the shape of the mouth.
- They always hang their heads down and only look up when alarmed.
- They have two horns with the front horn always larger that the second horn.

Sub-species of White Rhinos

I. Northern White Rhinos (*C. simum cottoni*)

- They are believed to be extinct in the wild and there are only two remaining in the world. Fatu and her daughter Najin, currently live in Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

Northern White Rhino (Najin) by Rio the Photographer

- They have more hair on their ears and have a rough body compared to the southern white rhinos.

II. Southern White Rhino (*C. simum simum*)

Southern White Rhino courtesy of Ade Olouch

- The Southern White Rhinos are mostly found in South Africa, with smaller translocated populations in Kenya, Namibia, and Zimbabwe

- Southern White Rhinos are larger and have more muscular necks compared to the Northern Whites.
- There is approximately between 17,000 to 18,915 Southern white rhinos.
- White Rhinos love rolling in mud as this protects their skin from sun and parasites.
- They drink water every 2-4 days.

2. ASIAN RHINOS

Javan Rhinos (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*)

Photo courtesy ©Alain Compost/Save the Rhino

Sumatran Rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*)

SumatranRhino©SaveTheRhinoInternational

Indian Rhino/ Greater One Horned Rhino *(Rhinoceros unicornis)*

Photo Courtesy ©RenaudFulconis SaveTheRhinoInternational

Do you know the differences between Black Rhinos and White Rhinos?

Have a quiz session with your friends and see who can remember and name the most differences:

Black Rhino

I. ……
II. ……
III……
IV.……

White Rhino

I. ……
II. ……
III……
IV.……

Please send your answers through a
text or WhatsApp Message to 0746 511 787
and we will share them with other kids in the next issue

THREATS FACING RHINOS

Southern White Rhino Courtesy of Ken Gitau

- **Poaching-** Many rhinos are killed for their horns because some people falsely think the horns have medicinal value
- **Habitat loss caused by human development.**
- **Illness and sickness**
- **In breeding:** When rhinos of the same family live together, causing weak genes and genetic mutations.
- Illegal trade for their horns which are prized in South East Asia.

MEET SIMON NAKITO

Q. Tell us about yourself.

A. I am Simon Nakito and I come from a nomadic family in a village called Kambi ya Juu in Isiolo town.

I studied Wildlife Management at the Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute and the Rhino Database Administrator at Ol Pejeta. I want to protect wildlife and make sure that my grandson will live to see them in the wild.

Q. What can kids do to save Rhinos?

- Join Wildlife or Environmental club in their school. Visit parks, reserves, sanctuaries and conservancies.
- Talk to people about the wrong myths on rhino horn
- Create awareness at school
- Read rhino books and do research on rhinos

Q. How did you get interested in Rhinos and why?

A: When I was still a student, I got an opportunity to experience a rhino notching exercise. (This is where a small piece of the rhino's ear is cut off and each is given a special unique number for identity).

Black rhino notching exercise at Ol Pejeta conservancy in September 2019

Q. How can a young person get involved in Rhino conservation? What do they need to study?

A: The first thing is to love wildlife and be a person be willing to learn about wildlife and sacrifice your time for wildlife.

MEET KENNETH ONZERE

Q. Tell us a about yourself.

A. My name is Kenneth Onzere, a rhino monitoring officer at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

I was born and raised in Vihiga County. I did a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Eldoret in 2015 and worked in elephant monitoring and predator monitoring but I had always wanted to become a Rhino scientist.

Q. How did you get interested in Rhinos and why?

A. When I was still a student, there were high cases of Rhino poaching and I got interested to know why people were killing these innocent creatures and I fell deeply in love with Rhinos in 2014 when I first worked with the Rhino unit for a few weeks.

I wanted to help in increasing the rhino numbers through research.

Q. How would a young person get involved in Rhino conservation? What do they need to study?

A: A young person can get involved by joining Wildlife clubs at school to learn about rhinos and activities she or he can do to protect them. To become a rhino conservationist, you can study any Wildlife related course in College or University.

Ken monitoring Rhinos

Q. What is so special about Rhinos?

- Their horns which are made of keratin
- They are peaceful animals unless provoked

A Tribute to SUDAN: The Last Known Male Northern White Rhino

Sudan before his death

Photo courtesy of Ol Pejeta Conservancy

On March 19th 2018, the world lost the last known male Northern White Rhino. He was known as Sudan and had lived for 45 years. He was old and died of natural causes.

However, being the last male on earth means that his species may soon go extinct. Humans are the biggest threat to Rhinos. Let us be the generation that saves Rhinos. We owe it to Sudan!

WILD JOKES! 🤣

Q:What do you call a group of Rhinoceros?
A:Rhinos-are-us

Q:Why did the Rhino break his phone?
A:The instructions were to charge it.

Q:How do you stop a charging Rhino?
A:Take away their credit card.

Q:What do you call an optimistic Rhino?
A:Rhiyes.

Q:Do Rhinos have good eyesight?
A:I haven't seen one in glasses yet.

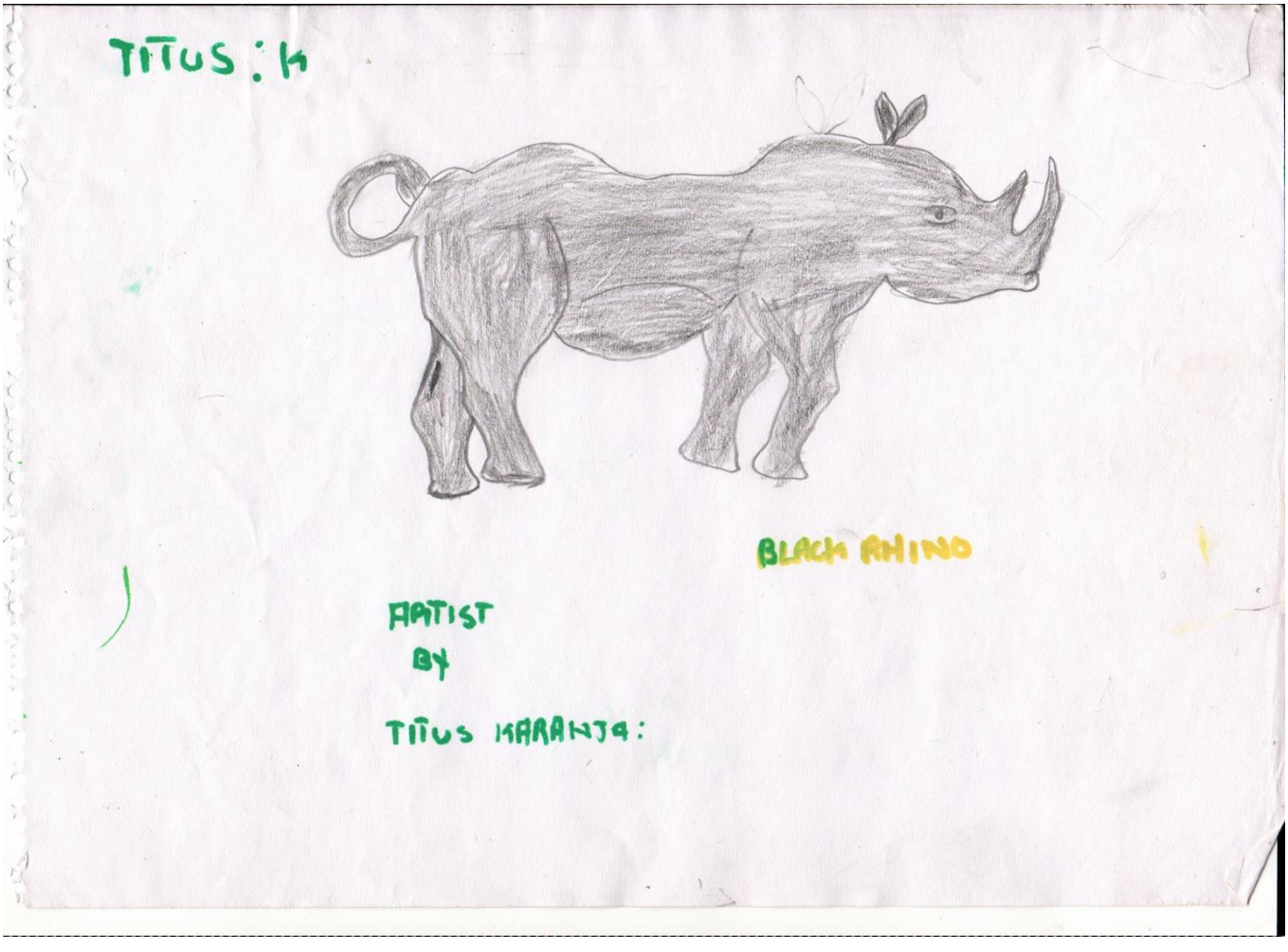
Q:What do you get if you cross an Elephant & a Rhino?
A:Trampled.

Q:Why are Rhinos so wrinkly?
A:They can't fit on the iron-board.

Q: What do you call a meeting between a Rhino & an Elephant?
A:Not rhelephant.

Wild jokes courtesy of Eric Sasia

ART FOR WILDLIFE



Drawing of a black rhino by Titus Karanja from Kwa Jomvu Primary School in Mombasa

Do you have a drawing, painting, essay or poem you would like to share with other kids? Please send a photo of your drawing and painting or a text/WhatsApp message with your poem /essay to 0746 511 787

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP NATURE

NATURE TREASURE HUNT PART 3

Explore Your Museum

We now have our treasure museum with samples of leaves, insects, flowers, feathers, sticks, stones, pebbles, bones, and other amazing treasures from around our home identified.

Wildlife Warriors during the 2019 Kids Expedition

- Identify the different colors from nature in your museum.
- Feel the texture of the samples collected with your sense of touch.
- Imagine your museum as a wild area with animals

Examine your treasures and ask yourself

- What treasure did you find first?
- Which treasure was the most difficult to find?
- Which is your most favorite treasure?

Nature Detective

What senses did you use first in your treasure hunt?

- What did you hear?
- What did you smell?
- What did you see?
- What did you feel?

Share with us what you have done to help nature this week by sending an SMS or WhatsApp text to 0746 511 787

THIS WEEK ON MY WILD AFRICA

This Sunday, we follow an extraordinary lives of Cheetah Ambassador, Shadow, cheetah cubs Felix, Garfield and Heathcliff, a little orphan Jackal called Jackson and a Mountain Lion called Brandy in an all new episode of Cheetah Diaries.

Tune in to Citizen TV Kenya at 5:30 PM E.A.T!

Watch the **film** with your family and tell us **what you learnt** by sending an **SMS** or **WhatsApp message** to **0746 511787**

COMING UP… DON'T MISS

Sunset in Maasai Mara by Veer Sikand (11 years)

- **My Wild Africa on Citizen TV at 5:30pm EVERY Sunday**
- **19th September – International Snakebite Awareness Day**
- **22nd September – World Rhino Day**
- **24th September – Gorilla Day**

FOR PARENTS

- Please tell us what you think of this newsletter by filling the second part of bit.ly/WWKIDS and we will get back to you.

- If you would love to support Wildlife Warriors Kids, please make a donation to:

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