

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## What Does a Rhinoceros Eat?



Rhinoceroses, or rhinos, are fascinating creatures known for their size and their plant-based diet. Rhinos are herbivores, which means they only eat plants. They do not eat meat or hunt other animals, making them very different from carnivores like lions or omnivores like bears. Rhinos rely on plants to survive and have special adaptations to help them find and eat their food.

Rhinos eat a variety of plants, depending on where they live. African rhinos, like the white and black rhino, eat grass, leaves, and bushes. The white rhino is sometimes called a “grazer” because it eats mostly grass. It uses its wide, flat mouth to pull grass from the ground. The black rhino, on the other hand, is known as a “browser.” It has a pointed, hooked lip that helps it grab leaves, branches, and twigs from bushes and trees.

In Asia, Indian rhinos eat tall grasses, fruits, and other plants found in forests and wetlands. Sumatran rhinos and Javan rhinos, which live in rainforests, eat leaves, fruits, and small plants. They use their sharp lips to grab food from trees and shrubs. Rhinos usually eat in the morning and evening when it is cooler outside, and they rest during the heat of the day.

Rhinos spend a lot of their time looking for food. Since they are so big, they need to eat a lot—up to 120 pounds of food every day! Rhinos use their strong bodies to push through thick vegetation to reach food. They also drink water whenever it is available, but they can survive for a few days without it if needed.

Unfortunately, habitat loss and poaching make it harder for rhinos to find enough food in the wild. Conservationists work to protect rhino habitats so these incredible animals can continue to graze and browse in safety.