

Name _____



What Does a Rhinoceros Look Like?

Rhinoceroses, often called rhinos, are some of the most striking animals in the world. They are known for their large size, unique horns, and thick, protective skin. Rhinos look like something out of a prehistoric age, with a body built for strength and defense.

Rhinos are huge animals. Depending on the species, they can stand between 4.5 and 6 feet tall at the shoulder and measure up to 13 feet long. Their weight is just as impressive—they can weigh anywhere from 1,800 to 5,500 pounds! That’s about as heavy as a car. Despite their size, rhinos are surprisingly fast and can run at speeds up to 30 miles per hour.

Rhinos have thick, gray or brownish skin that looks tough and wrinkled. It’s almost like armor, protecting them from thorns, insect bites, and even the claws of predators. Some species, like the Indian rhino, have skin that looks like plates of armor. Rhinos also have a small amount of hair, mostly on their ears and tails.

One of the rhino’s most famous features is its horn. Most rhinos have one or two horns on their noses, depending on the species. These horns are not made of bone but of keratin, the same material found in human hair and fingernails. A rhino’s horn grows continuously throughout its life and can be used for defense, digging, and even breaking branches to reach food.

Rhinos do not have stripes, spots, or colorful patterns like some other animals. However, their unique body features, like their horns and thick skin, make them easy to recognize. These features help rhinos survive in the wild, where they live in grasslands, savannas, and forests.