

Hippo or Rhino?

A Compare and Contrast Book



by Samantha Collison

Hippo or Rhino?

Do you know which animal is the hippopotamus (hippo) and which is the rhinoceros (rhino)? Yes, they both live in parts of Africa, but rhinos also live in parts of Asia. Both eat grasses, but one spends most of their day cooling off in the water and only comes onto land to graze in the evening. The other spends most of their day grazing. Some monkeys have prehensile tails, but did you know that one rhino species has a prehensile upper lip? Explore the similarities and differences between these mammals in this latest addition to the Compare and Contrast Series!

Arbordale Publishing offers so much more than a picture book. We open the door for children to explore the facts behind a story they love.

The *For Creative Minds* includes

- Thinking it Through
- Hippo or Rhino?
- True or False?
- Fun Facts

Thanks to Jay Ballard, Guest Services Supervisor - Volunteer Services at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance for verifying the information in this book.

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Samantha Collison loves all things animals and nature. She spent over 10 years as an educator for the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines, IA. In her time at Blank Park Zoo, she met countless children and helped instill a love for animals and nature through various educational programs and camps. If you ask Samantha if she has a favorite animal, she'd have a hard time answering! They are all impressive in their own unique ways! She now enjoys her time staying home with two young toddlers, a pet corgi, tortoise and a cornsnake. They spend much of their time exploring local nature trails and visiting Blank Park Zoo. Samantha's hope is that all young children feel curious about the animals and nature right in their backyard!



Samantha Collison

A note for parents and caregivers

Helping young children develop critical thinking skills is a gift they'll have for life. The book you are holding can help you to help them do just that.

Before reading the book, ask the child(ren) how they think these animals are alike or different. That helps you to understand what they already know or if they have any misconceptions.

After reading, go back through the book together looking at photos to find and discuss things. Ask verbal children to describe or explain what they see. Even young, non-verbal children can find and point to things. For example, have children find or point to:

- rhino's tusks (size, shape, number)
- muddy rhinos
- hippo's red mucus "sunscreen"
- hippo's eyes, ears, & nose above water
- hair/whiskers (both)

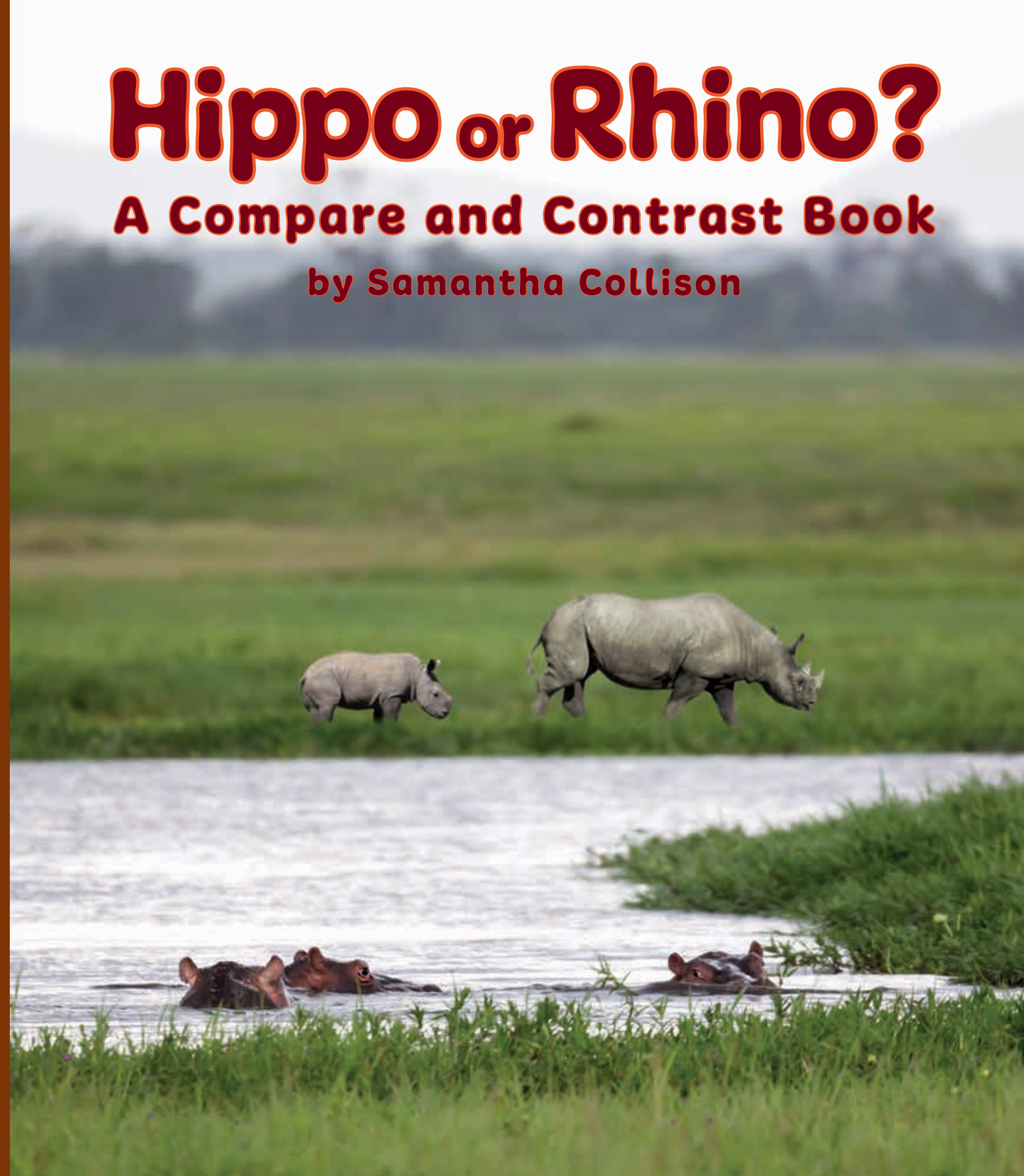
Ask children to describe one new thing they learned or found most interesting.

Do the "For Creative Minds" activities in the back of the book with them.

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Hippos, short for hippopotamuses, and rhinos, short for rhinoceroses, are both mammals, like us.



There are two species of hippos:
the common (or river) and the
pygmy hippo.

common
hippo



pygmy hippo



There are five living species of rhinos.

White and black rhinos are native to Africa.

The Indian, Javan, and Sumatran rhinos are native to Southern Asia.



white rhino



Indian rhino



Javan rhino



black rhino



Sumatran rhino

Hippos spend most of their time in or near lakes, pools, mudholes, or rivers. They are sometimes called “river horses.”

Hippos cannot swim so they gallop or bounce along the bottom of the water!



Rhinos in Africa spend most of their time in the grasslands. Asian rhinos spend most of their time in wetlands and rainforests.

For Creative Minds

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Thinking it Through

Rhinos were once found all across Africa and Asia. They are now only found in Borneo and Sumatra, Namibia, eastern Himalayas, and coastal east Africa. Can you find those locations on a map or a globe?

Black rhinos use their upper lips to grab and hold onto things (prehensile) much like we use our fingers. What other animals can you think of that use prehensile body parts to grab and hold onto things?

Look back through the pictures and see how many photos of hippos you see with the red mucus showing.

If hippo and rhino babies are called “calves” and the dads are called “bulls,” what do you think the moms are called? Why?

Hippos and rhinos are mammals, just like us. Can you see hair or whiskers on any of the photos? Most of us have hair on our heads. Where else do you have hair on your body? What other characteristics do mammals share?

A hippo’s adaptations allow it to have most of its body underwater with just its eyes, ears, and nose above water. Can you think of any other animals that have similar adaptations?



Hippo or Rhino?



Hippos spend most of their time in the water. They have a clear eyelid to help them keep eyes open underwater.

Hippos’ eyes and ears are on top of their heads so they can see when sitting in water.

Hippos have a red mucus to protect their skin from sunburn.

Black rhinos use their upper lip to grab and hold onto things.

Depending on the species, rhinos spend most of their time in grasslands, wetlands, or rainforests.

Rhinos have one or two horns.

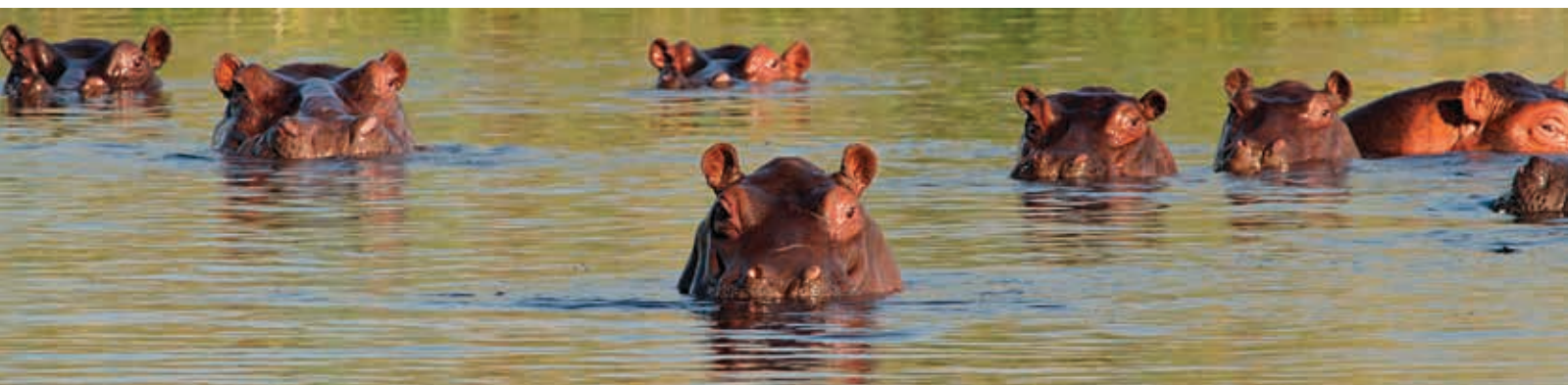
Answers: hippos: 2, 4, 6 rhinos: 1, 3, 5

True or False?

Using what you read in the book, determine whether these statements are true or false.

<p>1</p> <p>Both hippos and rhinos only live in Africa.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Hippos and rhinos are mammals, so they have some hair on parts of their bodies.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Hippos spend most of their time in the water and rhinos spend most of their time on land.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Hippos can hold their breath underwater for up to 5 minutes!</p>
<p>5</p> <p>All rhinos use their upper lips to grab and hold onto things (prehensile).</p>	<p>6</p> <p>All rhinos have one or two horns that they use to dig for food or to protect themselves.</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Rhinos sweat a red mucus that acts as a natural sunscreen to protect them from sunburns.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Both hippos and rhinos eat fish and small mammals.</p>

Answers: 1: False-rhinos also live in Asia. 2: True. 3: True. 4: True. 5: False-only black rhinos have this adaptation. 6: True. 7: False-hippos do but not rhinos. 8: False-they both eat grass.



Fun Facts

<p>Swimming</p> <p>Hippos spend most of their time in the water, but they can't swim—they gallop or bounce along the river bottom. Rhinos spend most of their time on land, but they are good swimmers.</p>	<p>Babies</p> <p>Hippo moms give birth to a single calf that can weigh between 50 to 110 pounds (23 to 50 kg). Calves nurse about 8 months and can even nurse underwater.</p> <p>Rhino moms usually give birth to one calf but sometimes have two. The calves weigh between 88 to 140 pounds (40 to 63 kg).</p>
<p>Helping their ecosystems</p> <p>After eating lots of grasses, hippos return to the water where they poop. Many fish and plankton rely on hippo poop for their food.</p> <p>Many small land animals also rely on eating rhino poop. Rhino poop also helps disperse seeds.</p>	<p>Related to?</p> <p>The closest relatives to hippos are pigs, whales, and dolphins!</p> <p>The closest relatives to rhinos are tapis, horses, and zebras.</p>
<p>Running</p> <p>Hippos can run up to 14 mph on land and rhinos can run up to 40 mph.</p> <p><i>How fast can you run?</i></p>	<p>Size</p> <p>Hippos and white rhinos are both about six feet (1.8 meters) high at the shoulders. A Sumatran rhino is only 4.8 feet (145 centimeters).</p> <p><i>How tall are you?</i></p>
<p>Eating</p> <p>Hippos can store two-days' worth of grass in their stomachs and can go up to two weeks without eating.</p>	<p>Eyesight</p> <p>Rhinos have poor eyesight and sometimes charge boulders or trees.</p>



This book is dedicated to my two curious nieces, Norah and Charlotte—the world’s number one hippo and rhino fans! —SC
Thanks to Jay Ballard, Guest Services Supervisor - Volunteer Services at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance for verifying the information in this book.
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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Collison, Samantha, 1983- author.
Title: Hippo or rhino? : a compare and contrast book / by Samantha Collison.
Description: Mt. Pleasant, SC : Arbordale Publishing, LLC, [2023] | Includes bibliographical references.
Identifiers: LCCN 2022036978 (print) | LCCN 2022036979 (ebook) | ISBN 9781643519913 (paperback) | ISBN 9781638170105 (interactive dual-language, read along) | ISBN 9781638170488 (epub) | ISBN 9781638170297 (adobe pdf)
Subjects: LCSH: Hippopotamidae--Juvenile literature. | Rhinoceroses--Juvenile literature.
Classification: LCC QL737.U57 C67 2023 (print) | LCC QL737.U57 (ebook) | DDC 599.63/5--dc23/eng/20220803
LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022036978>
LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022036979>

Translated into Spanish: *¿Hipopótamo o rinoceronte? Un libro de comparaciones y contrastes*
Spanish paperback ISBN: 9781638172932
Spanish ePub ISBN: 9781638173052
Spanish PDF ebook ISBN: 9781638173014
Dual-language read-along available online at www.fathomreads.com
English Lexile® Level: 930L

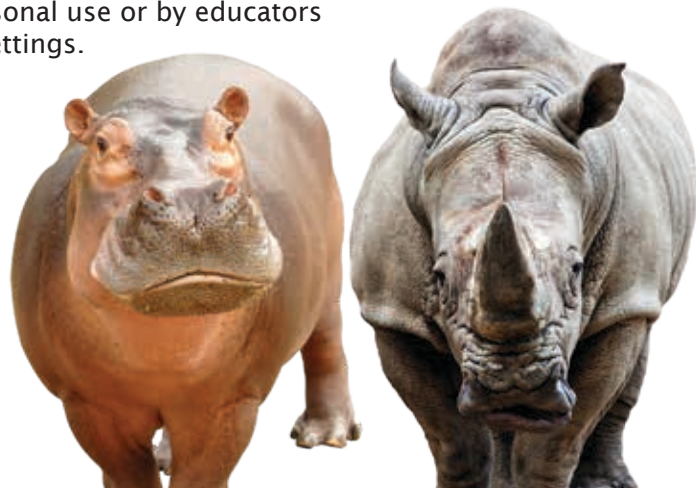
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