

2,000 near-threatened white rhinos to be auctioned

30th April 2023



The word "auction" usually conjures up images of priceless art, fine wines or celebrity memorabilia. It rarely makes us think of a near-threatened species of rhinoceros. However, those rich enough to splash out in excess of \$10

million can bid for 1,993 white rhinos on May the 1st, which is International Save the Rhino Day. The majestic beasts are being sold by multi-millionaire conservationist John Hume, a South African entrepreneur. He started a rhino breeding project with about 200 animals 30 years ago. He managed to increase his stock of the animals ten-fold. Mr Hume is also selling the 8,500-hectare ranch 100 miles south-east of Johannesburg where the rhinos live.

Mr Hume's ranch is home to more than 10 per cent of the world's total rhino population. Hume has spent \$150 million of his personal fortune on increasing rhino numbers, but can no longer afford to maintain the creatures. His expenses include vets' bills, security guards to keep poachers at bay and a helicopter for air patrols. He told reporters: "I've used all my life savings spending on that population of rhinos for 30 years and I finally ran out of money. I'm hoping that there is a billionaire that would rather save the population of rhinos from extinction than own a super-yacht." Hume lamented that: "Rhinos are underdogs. They stand the least chance of surviving poaching."

Sources: theguardian.com / ndtv.com / cbsnews.com

Writing

The World Wildlife Fund should pay the expenses to help Mr Hume's rhinos. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

auction / priceless art / fine wines / celebrity / memorabilia / rhinos / conservationist / ranch / personal fortune / vets / bills / poachers / life savings / millionaire / underdogs

True / False

- 1) The article says we think of cars when we hear the word "auction". T / F
- 2) The article says the rhinos will cost \$10 million. T / F
- 3) A South African billionaire is selling 1,993 white rhinos. T / F
- 4) The rhino seller started with 200 rhinos and bred them for three decades. T / F
- 5) The rhino seller owns over 10% of the world's rhino population. T / F
- 6) The article says the owner only has \$150 million in the bank. T / F
- 7) The owner needs a millionaire with a super-yacht to buy the rhinos. T / F
- 8) The owner called rhinos underdogs. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. conjures up | a. splurge |
| 2. species | b. rued |
| 3. splash out | c. dignified |
| 4. majestic | d. likelihood |
| 5. increase | e. entire |
| 6. total | f. brings to mind |
| 7. expenses | g. enlarge |
| 8. at bay | h. away |
| 9. lamented | i. breed |
| 10. chance | j. outgoings |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How would you feel if rhinos went extinct?
- c) What should we do to stop poachers?
- d) What punishment should poachers get?
- e) Should there be a condition that all the rhinos be kept together?
- f) Would you buy the rhinos or a super-yacht?
- g) Why might rhinos be underdogs?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Mr Hume?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. conjures up | a. are underdogs |
| 2. celebrity | b. project |
| 3. those rich enough to | c. of surviving poaching |
| 4. He started a rhino breeding | d. memorabilia |
| 5. increase his stock of the animals | e. savings |
| 6. security guards to keep poachers | f. from extinction |
| 7. I've used all my life | g. images of priceless art |
| 8. save the population of rhinos | h. at bay |
| 9. Hume lamented that rhinos | i. splash out |
| 10. They stand the least chance | j. ten-fold |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of auctions?
- What would you like to buy at an auction?
- What do you think of white rhinos?
- What do you think of the white rhino auction?
- How can we help to protect the white rhino?
- What do you think of the success of Mr Hume's project?
- Should governments set up rhino breeding projects?
- What advice do you have for Mr Hume?

Spelling

- sncurjeo up images of priceless art
- fine wines or celebrity mlieaabriom
- splash out in xscsee of \$10 million
- The jiesacmt beasts are being sold
- a South African ernurpreetn
- selling the 8,500-eaectrh ranch
- \$150 million of his personal rnoetfu
- maintain the cerrtaseu
- His xpseeesn include vets' bills
- save the population of rhinos from onicitxetn
- Rhinos are nesgruddo
- stand the least chance of surviving cogahpni

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. I	3. a	4. c	5. g
6. e	7. j	8. h	9. b	10. d

Role Play

Role A – The White Rhino

You think the white rhino is most in need of protection. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as deserving. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): the grey bat, the shy albatross or the copper shark.

Role B – The Grey Bat

You think the grey bat is most in need of protection. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as deserving. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): the white rhino, the shy albatross or the copper shark.

Role C – The Shy Albatross

You think the shy albatross is most in need of protection. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as deserving. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): the grey bat, the white rhino or the copper shark.

Role D – The Copper Shark

You think the copper shark is most in need of protection. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as deserving. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): the grey bat, the shy albatross or the white rhino.

Speaking – Near-threatened

Rank these with your partner. Put the ones that need the most help at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • The white rhino | • The copper shark |
| • The gray bat | • The Asian leaf turtle |
| • The ball python | • The Guinea baboon |
| • The shy albatross | • The Corfu cave cricket |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	F	7	F	8	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.