

World's last male northern white rhino dies

23rd March, 2018



Creative Commons 2.0
via Heather Paul on flickr.com

Conservationists and animal lovers are in mourning today for the loss of Sudan the rhinoceros. Sudan was the world's last male northern white rhino. The 45-year-old animal was put down by his carers at a zoo in Kenya

after "age-related complications". He had been in very poor health recently due to his old age. Zoo officials say his condition had "worsened significantly" and that he no longer had the strength to stand. His muscles had severely deteriorated throughout his body and his skin had "extensive wounds". The zoo's director said: "Sudan's death was a cruel symbol of human disregard for nature and it saddened everyone who knew him....He stole the heart of many with his dignity and strength."

Like many of Earth's majestic beasts, hunters have hunted the northern white rhino to near-extinction. There were more than 2,000 northern white rhino in the wild in the 1960s but their numbers continually dwindled because of the value of their horns. The only remaining northern white rhinos today are two females - Sudan's daughter and granddaughter. Both animals live in captivity so they will be protected. There are hopes that the two females can produce young to keep the species going. In vitro fertilization techniques using stored semen from other dead rhinos could be used to impregnate Sudan's offspring. The zoo is hoping to raise \$9 million to fund the conservation project.

Sources: popsci.com / scientificamerican.com / cbsnews.com

Writing

Money spent on weapons should be spent on conservation. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

conservationist / animal lover / rhinoceros / complications / strength / skin / nature / hunters / extinction / horns / captivity / species / techniques / offspring / project

True / False

- a) The article said conservation lovers are in mourning. T / F
- b) Sudan the rhino was 45 at the time of his death. T / F
- c) Sudan had not been strong enough to stand up. T / F
- d) Sudan the rhino used to steal people's hats. T / F
- e) There were more than 2,000 northern white rhino 50 years ago. T / F
- f) There are only 22 northern white rhino in the world today. T / F
- g) Conservationists hope Sudan's granddaughter will produce young. T / F
- h) A zoo needs \$9 to help save the northern white rhino. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. in mourning | a. pride |
| 2. put down | b. worsened |
| 3. complications | c. finance |
| 4. deteriorated | d. animals |
| 5. dignity | e. put to sleep |
| 6. beasts | f. safe |
| 7. extinction | g. difficulties |
| 8. protected | h. insemination |
| 9. fertilization | i. grieving |
| 10. fund | j. eradication |

Discussion – Student A

- a) How sad is this news?
- b) How much of a conservationist are you?
- c) What do you know about rhinos?
- d) What can we do to protect endangered animals?
- e) Why do many humans have a disregard for nature?
- f) What is the rhino a symbol of?
- g) Why can't zoos breed more rhinos?
- h) What advice do you have for conservationists?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. Conservationists and animal lovers are in
 2. age-related
 3. His muscles had severely
 4. a cruel symbol of human disregard
 5. He stole the heart of many
 6. hunted the northern white rhino to
 7. more than 2,000 northern white rhino in the
 8. numbers continually dwindled because of the
 9. in vitro
 10. The zoo is hoping to raise
- a. deteriorated
 - b. with his dignity
 - c. fertilization techniques
 - d. near-extinction
 - e. value of their horns
 - f. mourning today
 - g. \$9 million
 - h. wild in the 1960s
 - i. for nature
 - j. complications

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Why do so many people not think about conservation?
- c) What do you think of zoos?
- d) Why are rhino horns so sought after?
- e) Would you give money to help the project?
- f) Should governments spend more on conservation than weapons?
- g) What do you think the future of rhinos will be?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the zoo officials?

Spelling

1. age-related soipctaoimlc
2. His muscles had yeseervl deteriorated
3. his skin had extensive noduws
4. Sudan's death was a cruel ysobml
5. gdrdesair for nature
6. his igdnity and strength
7. many of Earth's sctjmeia beasts
8. near-eixontctin
9. their numbers continually eiwndld
10. Both animals live in civiattyp
11. In vitro lznttefiiraoi techniques
12. \$9 million to fund the vcainsonerto project

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Rhinos

You think rhinos are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): hippos, elephants or crocodiles.

Role B – Hippos

You think hippos are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rhinos, elephants or crocodiles.

Role C – Elephants

You think elephants are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): hippos, rhinos or crocodiles.

Role D – Crocodiles

You think crocodiles are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their animals. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): hippos, elephants or rhinos.

Speaking – Fundraising

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to raise funds for the conservation project at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- social media campaign
- sponsored walks
- lifetime zoo passes
- put zoos in your will
- charity boxes at zoos
- Internet donations
- newspaper ads
- ask a rich person

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.