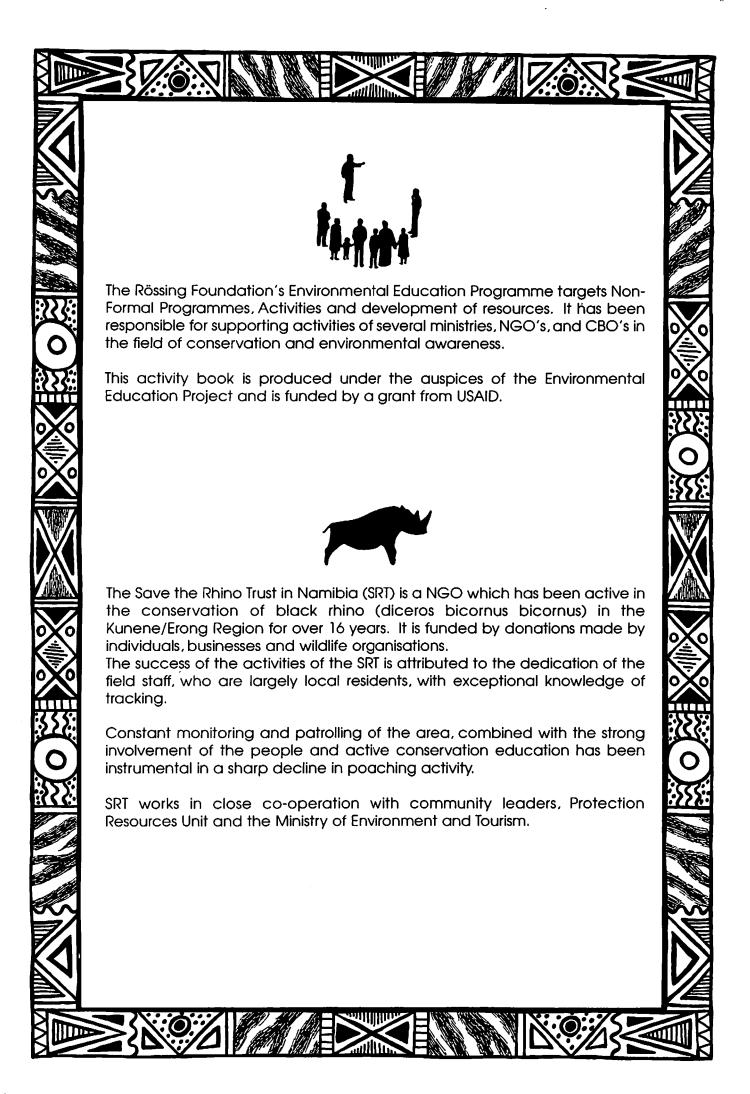
RHINO STIVITY BOOK



written and salfed by Ugne Gold with Wustrafions by Mel Futter



14/2-00

RHINO ACTIVITY BOOK

written and edited by Jane Gold
with illustrations by Mel Futter,
with acknowledgements
to Michelle Evans and Sophie Neville
for their concepts.
The Herero is translated by
Maria Kambatuku,
and Damara by
Dudu Murorwa.

This book is for all the rhino in Namibia: may they always be there!

1999 © Rössing Foundation P.O. Box 20746 - Tel. 211721

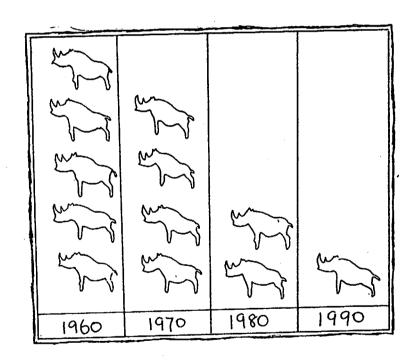
ISBN 99916 - 746 - 4 - 0



In Namibia there are about 400 black rhino. In the whole of Africa there are only 3 000 black and 5 000 white rhino left. Thirty years age, when our parents were still children there were 100 000 rhino alive.

The reasons that rhinos are killed are because of the horns. The poacher usually chops the horn off with an axe. He leaves the body to rot and sells the horn to a middleman, who sells it to a buyer who smuggles the corn to countries like South Korea and Taiwan. The horns are packed in boxes which are labelled as "African handicrafts", "vegetables" or even "furniture".

The maximum penalty for poaching and smuggling is 20 years in prison and fines of up to N\$ 200 000.00. But neither this nor the world ban on hunting rhino is enough to save the rhino. One way to stop the poaching is to talk to the countries where the horn is used. Another way is to work together with local communities living in the rhino areas, and that is what Save the Rhino Trust does in Namibia.



Discuss these issues with your class mates, friends and family: What do you think about poaching rhinos? Do you think that it is more valuable to have them poached for their horns to use for medicine? Or is it better to let the rhinos be free to live in their natural habitat?



THE BLACK RHINO

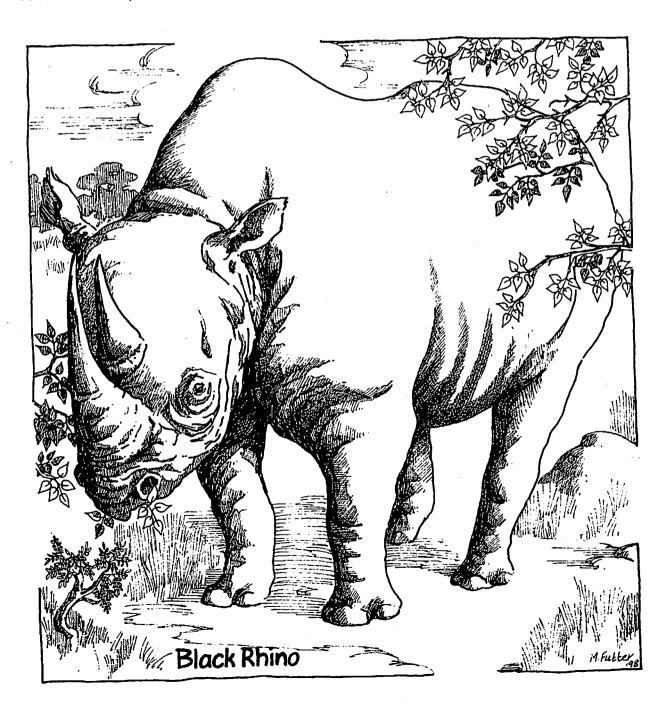
I am a black rhino. I am much smaller than white rhinos and weigh up to 1 500 kilograms. My lip is hooked and I am a browser. This means that I like to eat off small to medium height trees and shrubs. My favourite food in the Namib desert is Welwitschia, euphorbia damarana and salvadora.

You can find me in the Etosha National Park, where I am protected. I am also living in the north western Kunene Region, where I am one of the few free ranging rhino in the world.

I cannot see very well, but beware I can smell and hear very well indeed. I am also a fast runner and can reach 50kph in just a few seconds.

A new born calf weighs up to 40 kilograms and can stand up and walk within ten minutes of being born. It stays very close to its mother who is protective. The calf follows the mother where ever she goes. The calf grows quickly and within a month it can already eat twigs.

See what else you can find out about black rhino?



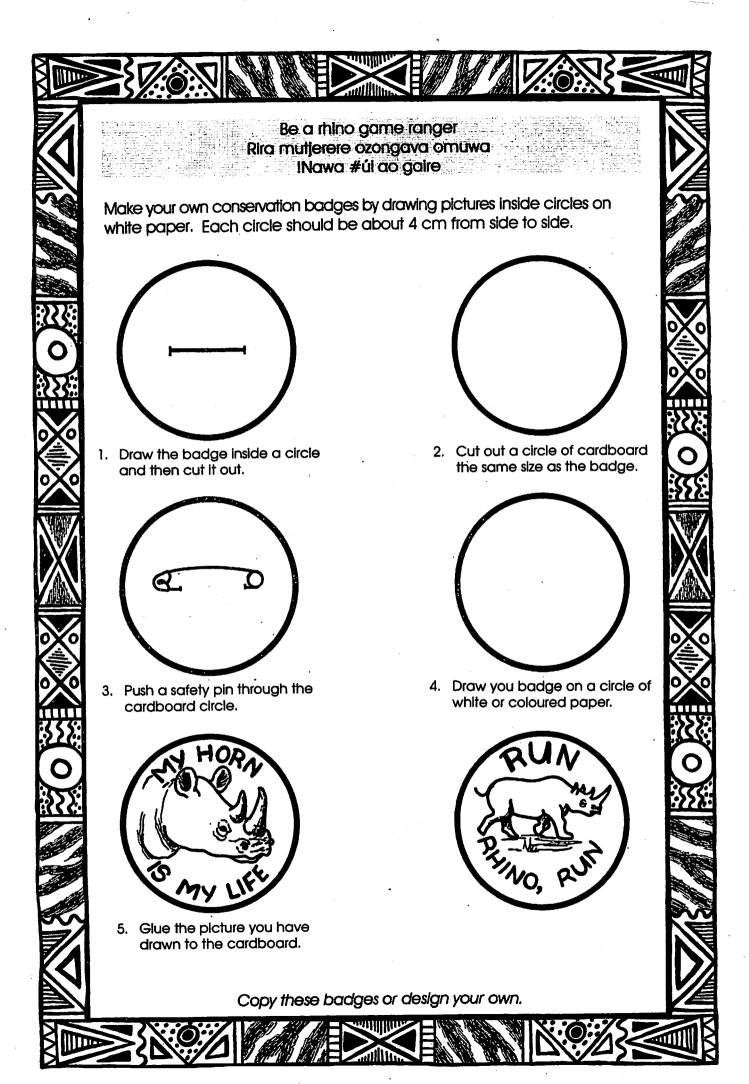


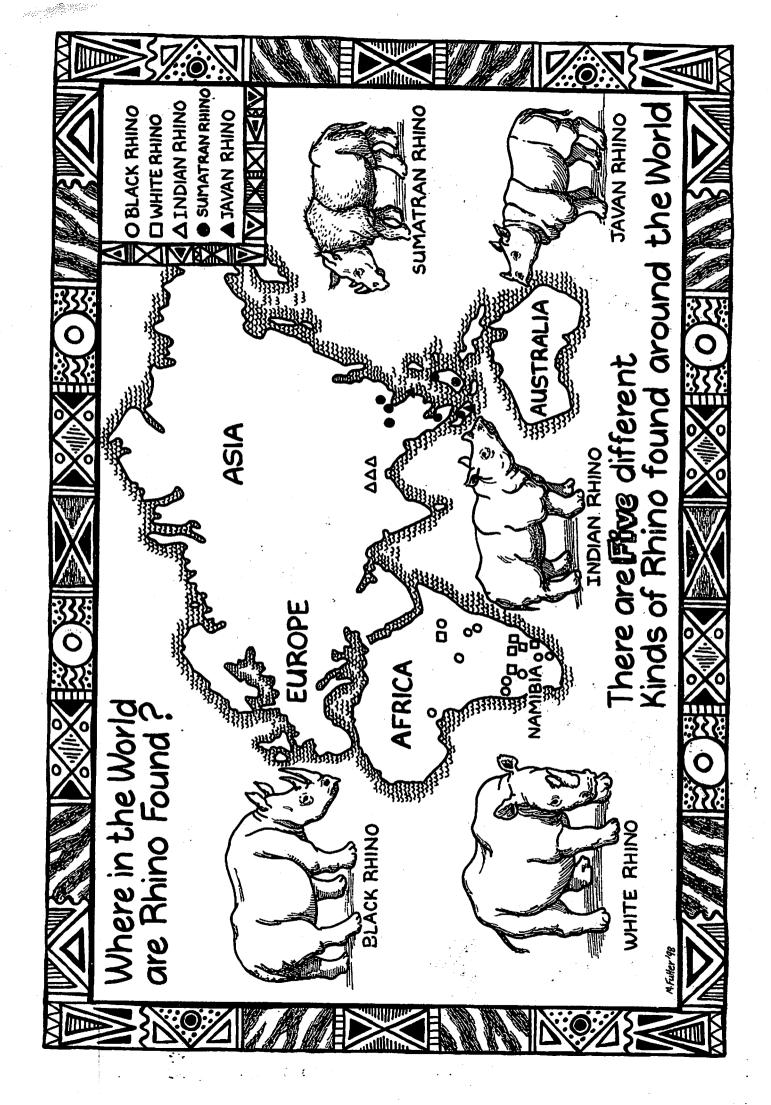
THE WHITE RHINO

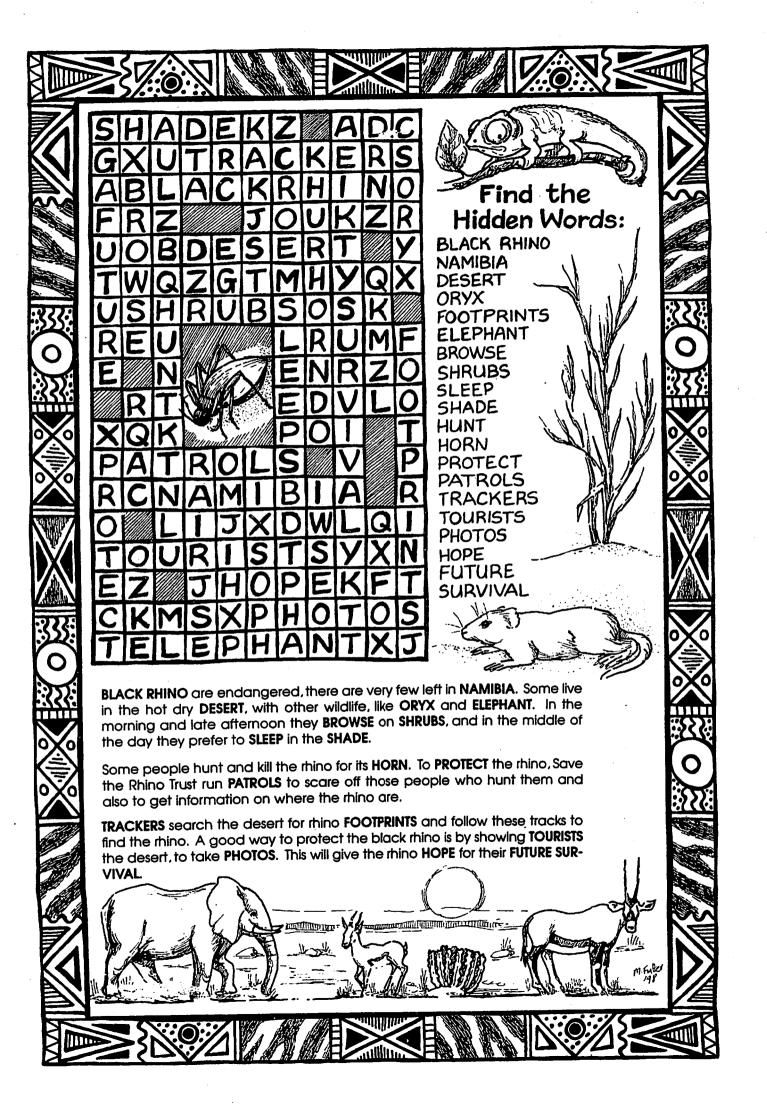
I am a white rhino. I am very big and can weigh up to 3 000 kilograms. I have a square lip, as you can see in the picture. I am a grazer, which means that I like to eat short grass. I need lots of water to drink and mud to wallow in. I like to wallow in mud pools to keep cool and to chase the files and ticks off my 2cm thick skin. After I have wallowed, I like to rub myself on a tree trunk or a boulder (big rock). The boulders become shiny and polished after a long time.

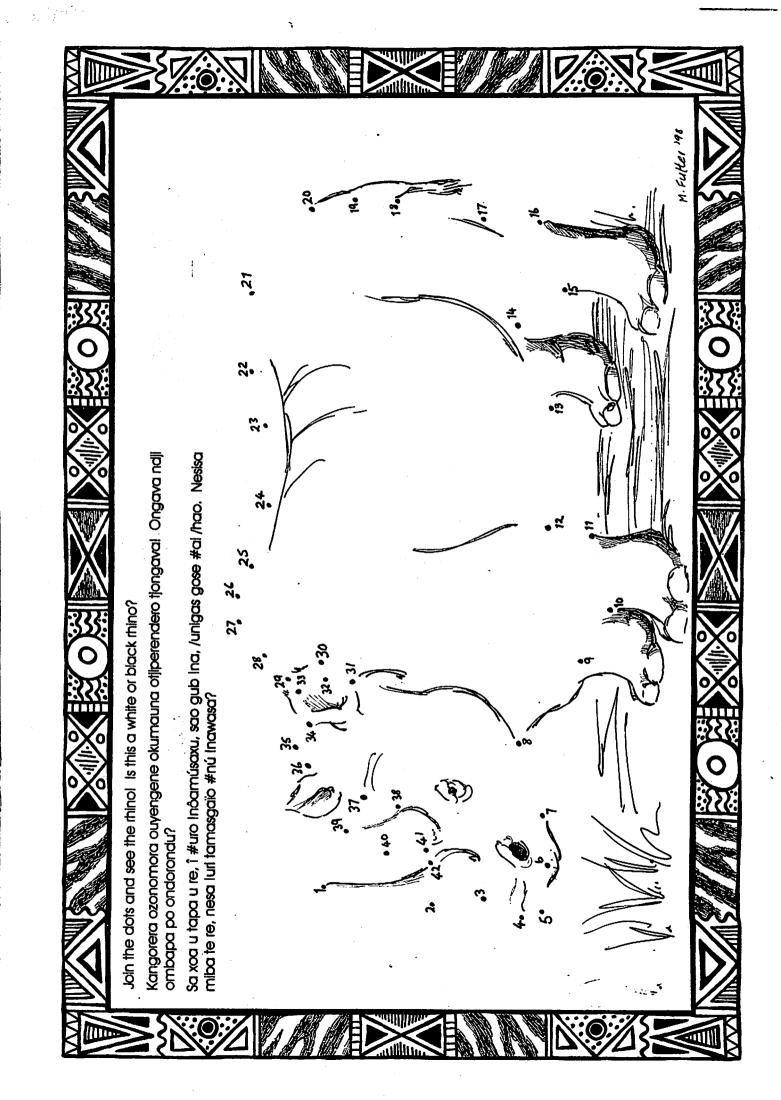
My favourite countryside to live in is flat, with no hills or mountains, and lots of thick bush to hide in, especially during the day. You can find me at the Waterberg Plateau Park in Namibia, but I am more common in Natal-Kwazulu and Tanzania.

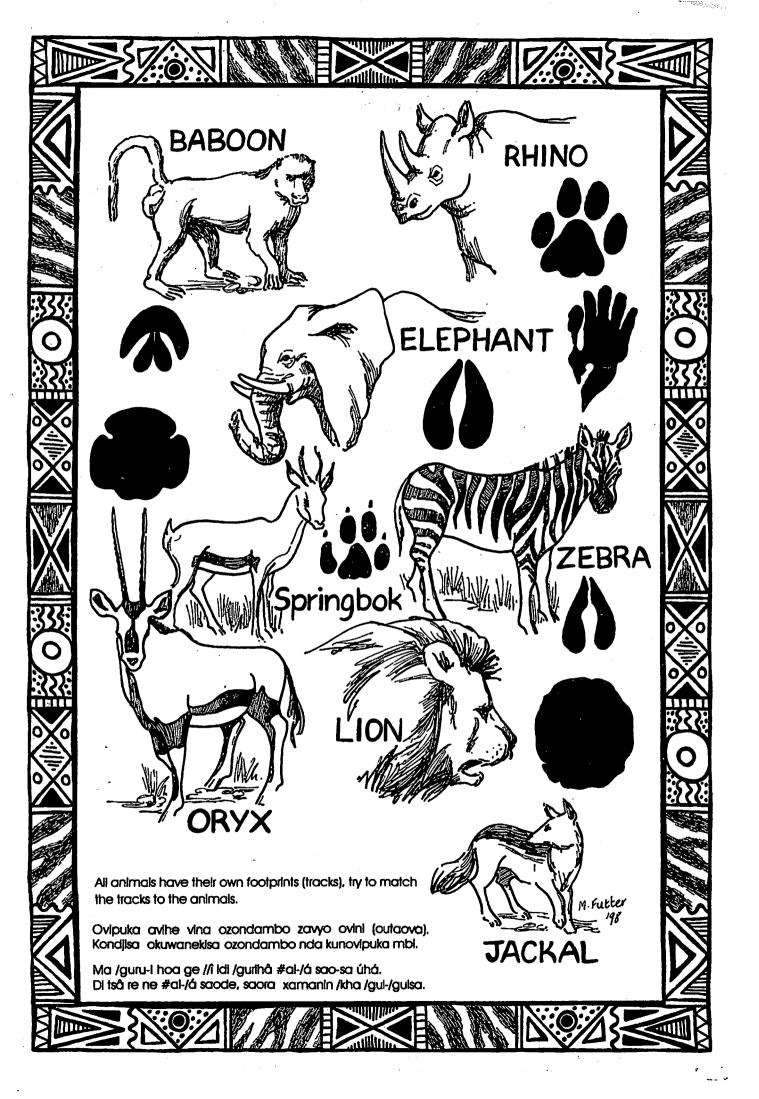
My calf walks in front of me. It stays with me until it is two years old and I then chase it away. Usually the calf will team up with another calf of its own age.

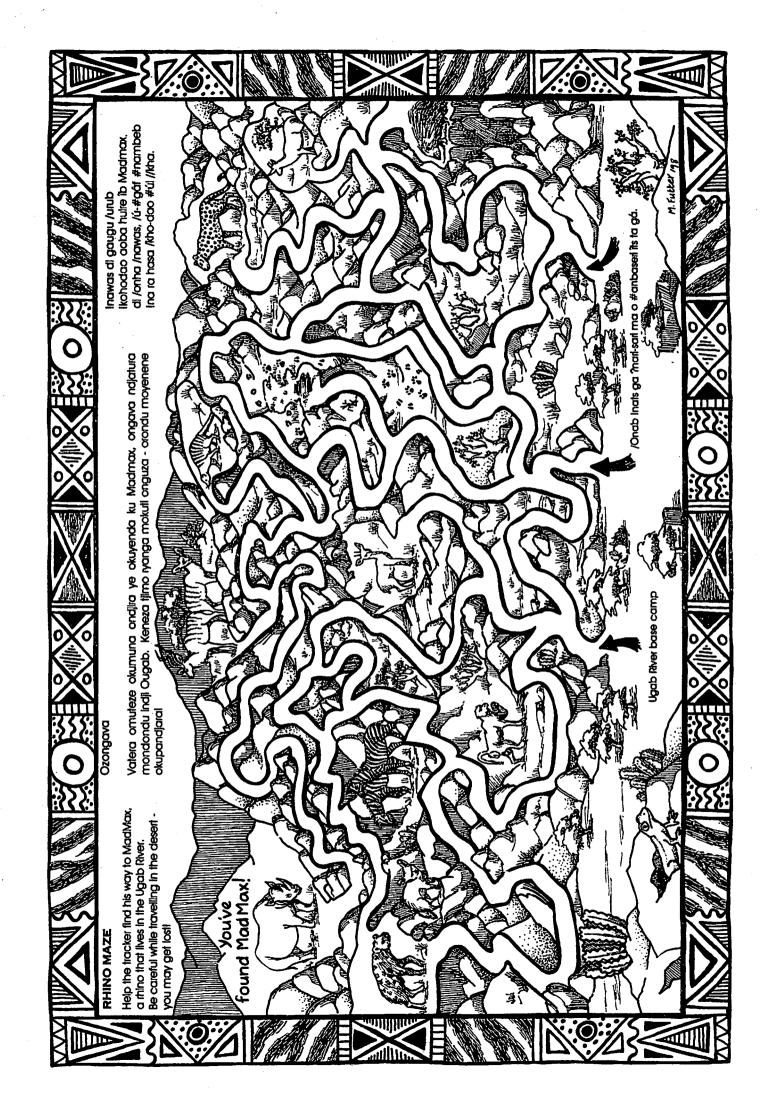












YOUR HORN OR YOUR LIFE.

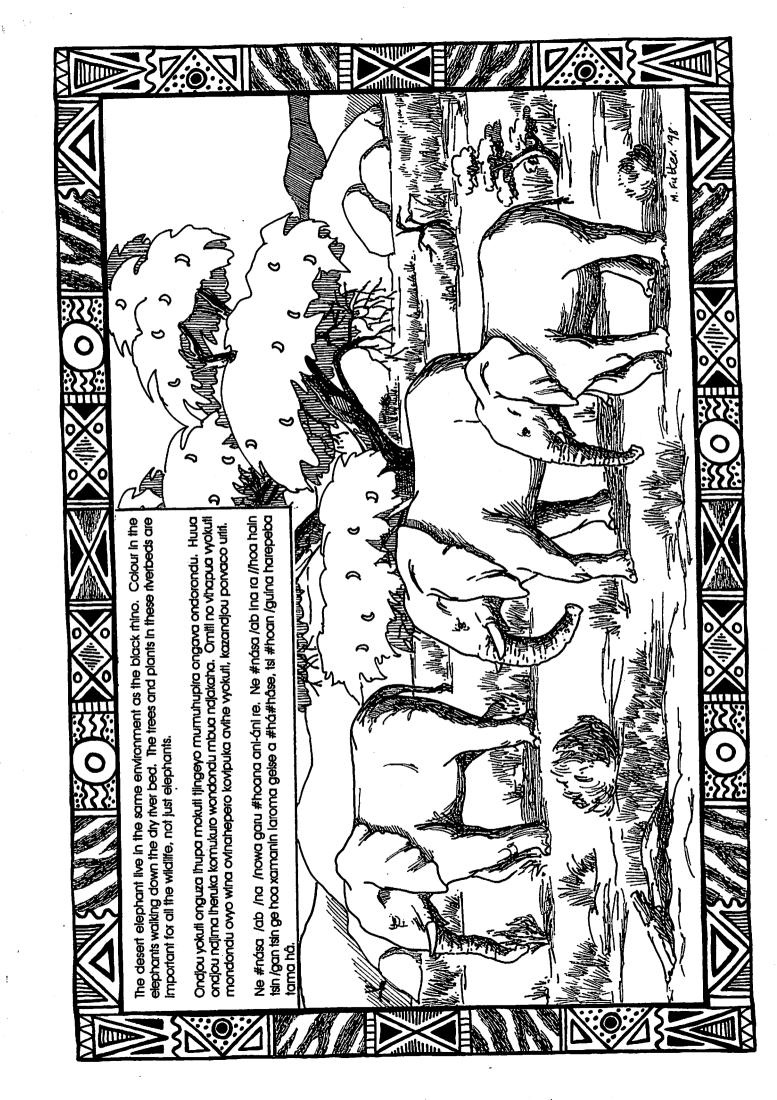
Rhino horn is not made of horn like that of the kudu or cryx, or of ivory like the elephant's tusk; it is tightly packed hair called keratin. But the horn is very hard and can go through the door of a truck it a rhino charged.

Rhino horn is still used in traditional medicines in places of the south east asian countries like South Korea and Talwan. To try to save the rhinos, some of them are de-horned. That is to say that their horns are cut off. Then the rhino has no value to the poachers.

The thino is given an injection from a helicopter to make it sleep. Then the horn is cut off with a saw.

A rhino can live a a safe and good life without horns. After a while the horn does grow back again - just like our nails and hair.





Here are ten rules of the desert.

- 1. Do not camp closer than 1km from the water. Desert animals have to travel a long way to get water and they like to drink at night.
- 2. Camp away from the animal pathways which go to the water; camping on the path can make the game frightened.
- 3. Always take your litter with you when you leave and dump it at the city dumps, not at country rest camps.
- 4. Never bury your litter the jackals will dig it up.
- 5. Dig a hole to make your camp fire in and bury it when you leave.
- 6. Do not drive off the tracks especially in sandy riverbeds, tracks ruin the scenery for everyone who goes there.
- 7. Please ask for a local guide to take with you and to give you the interesting information about the area.
- 8. Never chase the wildlife of the desert.
- 9. Do not use soap in the freshwater springs.
- 10. Take your own firewood from the city.

Enjoy your holiday in the desert!!

Look at the picture below. See what the campers are doing.

Are the campers kind to the environment? Are you?

Is the place that they are visiting being left in the condition that others would like to find it in?



