

Sample Maths Items – 6th Class – NA '14 Released

The following excerpt "Rhino Facts" is taken from Philip Ardagh's *Book of Absolutely Useless Lists*. Use it to answer the questions that follow.

Rhino Facts

- In 1298 the Italian explorer Marco Polo mistook rhinos for unicorns. He later wrote:

There are wild elephants in this country, and numerous unicorns, which are very nearly as big. They have hair like that of a buffalo, feet like those of an elephant, and a horn in the middle of the forehead, which is black and very thick.



- Today, there are only five species of rhinos: (in Asia) the Sumatran, Javan, and Indian, and (in Africa) the Black and the White rhinos. All are close to extinction.
- During the 1970s, 50% of the world's rhino population disappeared.
- The White rhino is neither white nor particularly pale. The word 'white' is a corruption of the Afrikaner word '*wijd*' meaning wide, referring to the animal's pronounced lips.
- According to the World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) latest figures:



- Black rhino numbers fell from 65,000 in 1970 to 2550 in 1993, then went up a little to just over 3600 in 2004.
 - In 2004 White rhinos numbered around 11,000.
 - The Indian rhino population was estimated to be about 2090 in 2002.
 - In that same year the population estimate for Javan rhinos was between just 50 and 70.
- The biggest cause of the rhino's endangerment is poaching. Rhino horns fetch a very high price on the black market, although all trade in rhino horns is illegal. Since at least the 5th century BC, there have been people who've thought the rhino's horn has healing powers. Then there are those who prize it as a source of material for carving.

➤ One solution is for officials to tranquillise rhinos and remove their horns, giving poachers no reason to kill them. The problem is that it's not known what effect the horn's removal might have on the animal.

1. The White rhino got its name from which part of its body?

Q074R

86% of pupils answered this item correctly

2. Based on the article, which species do you think is most in danger of extinction? Why?

Q075F

62% of pupils answered this item correctly

3. Why did Marco Polo think that he saw unicorns?

Q076I

88% of pupils answered this item correctly

4. From the article, what do you think was the **main** cause of the disappearance of so many rhinos in the 1970s?

Q077I

- (a) Other animals
- (b) Human activities
- (c) Climate change
- (d) Natural disasters

81% of pupils answered this item correctly

5. For how long have some people believed that rhino horns have medicinal properties?

Q078F

- (a) 2500 years
- (b) 700 years
- (c) 1500 years
- (d) 100 years

54% of pupils answered this item correctly

6. Why are officials reluctant to remove the rhinos' horns?

Q079R

38% of pupils answered this item correctly

7. One reason why some people buy rhino horns is because they believe that the horns have healing qualities. Give **another** reason.

Q080R

64% of pupils answered this item correctly

8. Why do you think the number of Black rhinos increased between 1993 and 2004?

Q081I

47% of pupils answered this item correctly

9. 'The biggest cause of the rhino's endangerment is poaching.'
What does the word **poach** mean here?

Q082F

- (a) To sell on the black market.
- (b) To remove wild animals' horns.
- (c) To tranquillise wild animals.
- (d) To hunt wild animals illegally.

72% of pupils answered this item correctly