



SMART JUNIORS 2

The Natural World

Lesson 44

Read for Main Idea



PREPARE TO READ

Academic Vocabulary

Read each sentence. Choose the correct definition of the highlighted word.

1. Humans are **mammals**, just like dogs, cats, and whales.



n. a community of living things such as plants and animals interacting with each other

2. Deer are **herbivores** because they mainly consume grass, leaves, and other plant materials.



n. a group of animals that typically give birth to live babies and feed them with milk

3. A pond with fish, frogs, and water plants is an example of an aquatic **ecosystem**.



n. an animal that primarily eats plants and is not a meat-eater

Academic Vocabulary

Read each sentence. Choose the correct definition of the highlighted word.

4. The rainforest is the **habitat** of many colorful birds and diverse plant species.



n. the protection of natural resources and the environment to ensure their continued existence

5. **Conservation** efforts aim to save endangered species like pandas and preserve their habitats.



n. the specific environment where an animal or plant species naturally lives

6. **Poaching** elephants for their tusks is against the law in most countries.



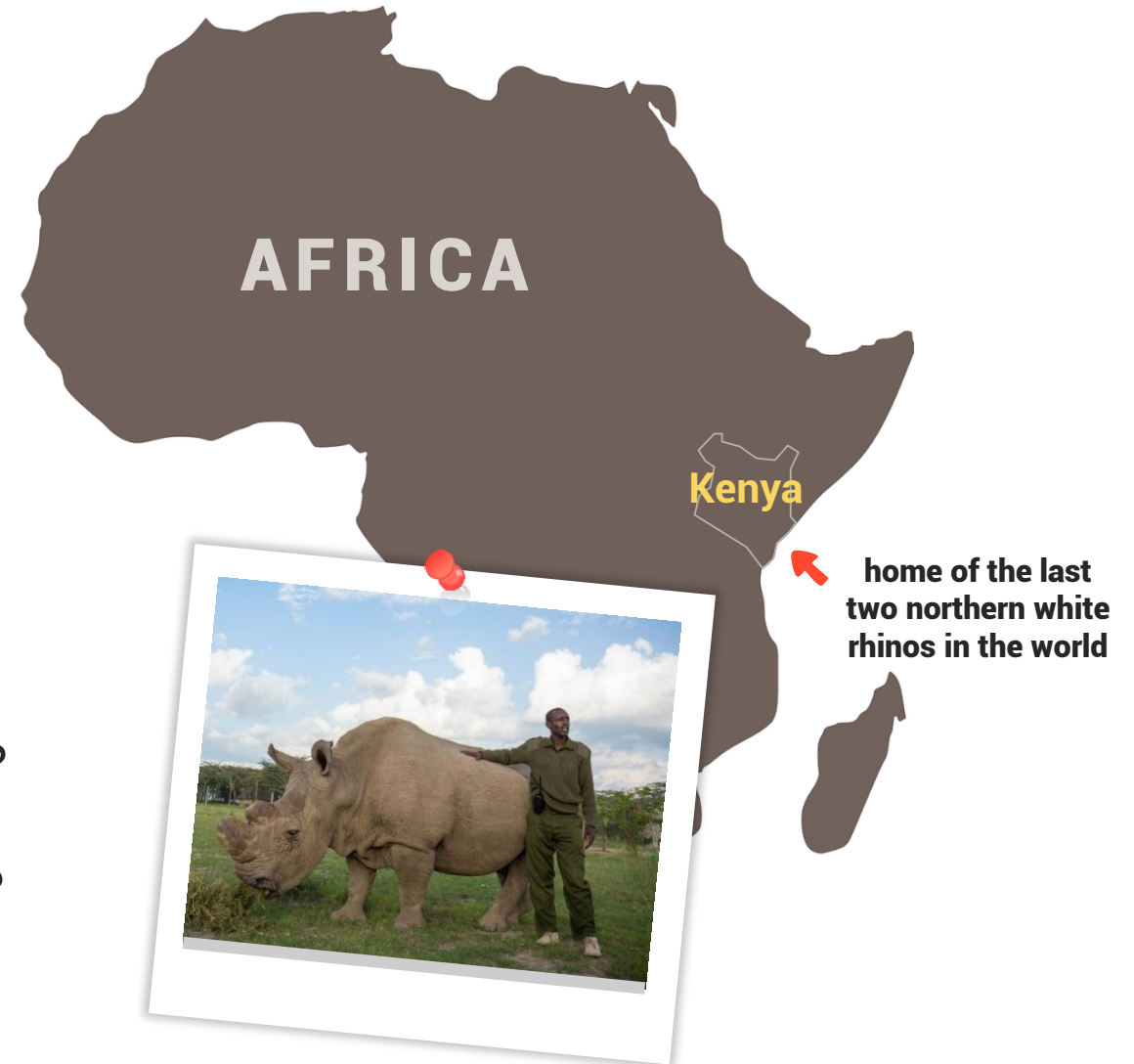
n. the illegal hunting or capturing of animals for their body parts or for profit

Think Before Reading

Did you know?

There are only **two** northern white rhinos left in the world. They are heavily guarded 24/7 by soldiers in Kenya.

1. What happened to all the northern white rhinos?
2. What happens if these animals become extinct?



Rhino Conservation Quest: Saving One Horn at a Time

The rhinoceros, known for its magnificent horn, is the second largest land mammal in the world, after the elephant. They also have the largest horns of any land mammal, with some horns growing up to five feet long. Rhinos play an important role in the ecosystem as herbivores, helping to control the growth of plants and trees. This essay explores the global rhino population from 2009 to 2019, showing significant changes in rhino conservation.

The graph shows the number of rhinos over a ten-year period. In 2009, there were 21,000 rhinos in the world, but this number increased sharply to 28,894 in 2013. From 2013 to 2017, the population fluctuated with a drop in 2015 followed by a rise in 2017. However, the population has decreased since then, reaching 27,300 in 2019.

The rise and fall of the rhino population reflects the challenges and successes of rhino conservation. The increase in rhino population from 2009 to 2013 was likely due to conservation efforts to reduce poaching and habitat loss. However, the decline to 27,300 in 2019 suggests that there is still ongoing poaching and habitat loss, as well as other factors such as climate change and disease. It is clear that more work is needed to ensure the safety and survival of these incredible creatures.

In conclusion, the graph shows that the global rhino population has increased overall from 2009 to 2019, but there have been some fluctuations along the way. This suggests that progress has been made in rhino conservation, but there is still more work to be done. Protecting rhinos is important not only for their own survival, but also for the good of the ecosystem. We must double our efforts to ensure that these animals continue to thrive for future generations.

Predict From the Title

Look at **the title** of the essay and answer the questions below.

1. What is the essay's title?
2. Complete the prediction below.

I think this essay is about...



Listen and read the essay.



Rhino Conservation Quest: **Saving One Horn at a Time**

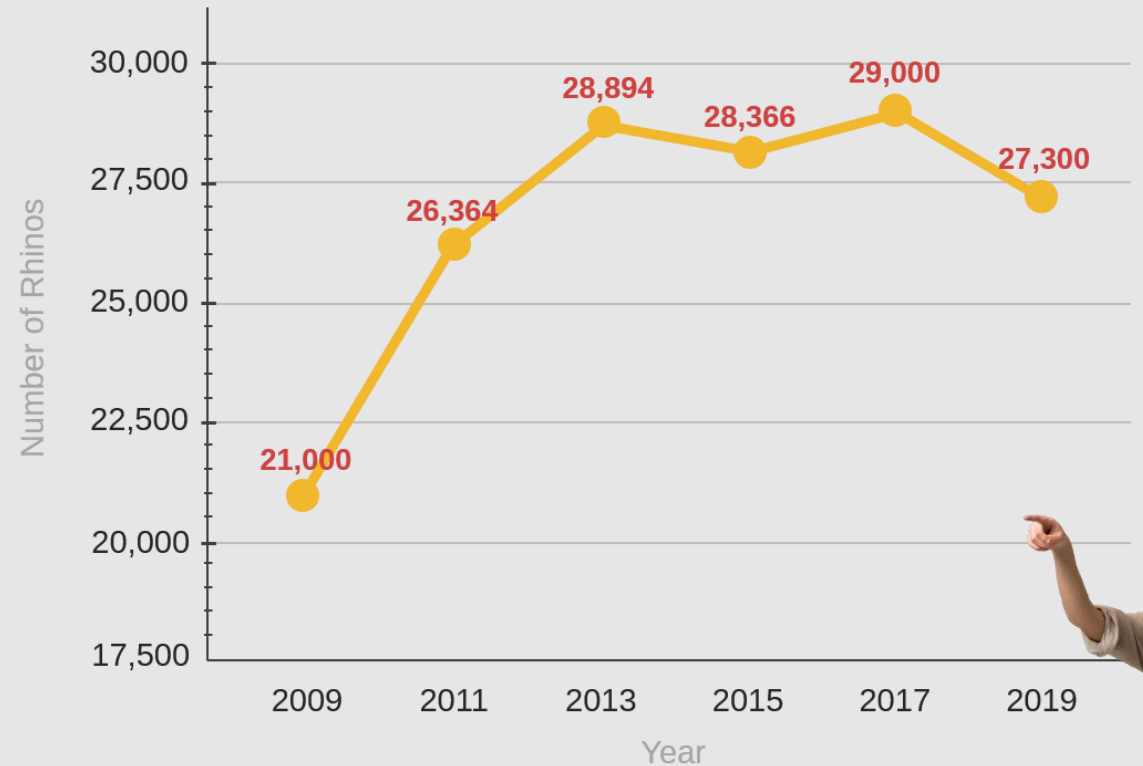
▶ The rhinoceros, known for its magnificent horn, is the second largest land **mammal** in the world, after the elephant. They also have the largest horns of any land mammal, with some horns growing up to five feet long. Rhinos play an important role in the **ecosystem** as **herbivores**, helping to control the growth of plants and trees. This essay explores the global rhino population from 2009 to 2019, showing significant changes in rhino **conservation**.

READ FOR MAIN IDEA

▶ The graph shows the number of rhinos over a ten-year period. In 2009, there were 21,000 rhinos in the world, but this number increased sharply to 28,894 in 2013. From 2013 to 2017, the population fluctuated with a drop in 2015 followed by a rise in 2017. However, the population has decreased since then, reaching 27,300 in 2019.



Global Rhino Population

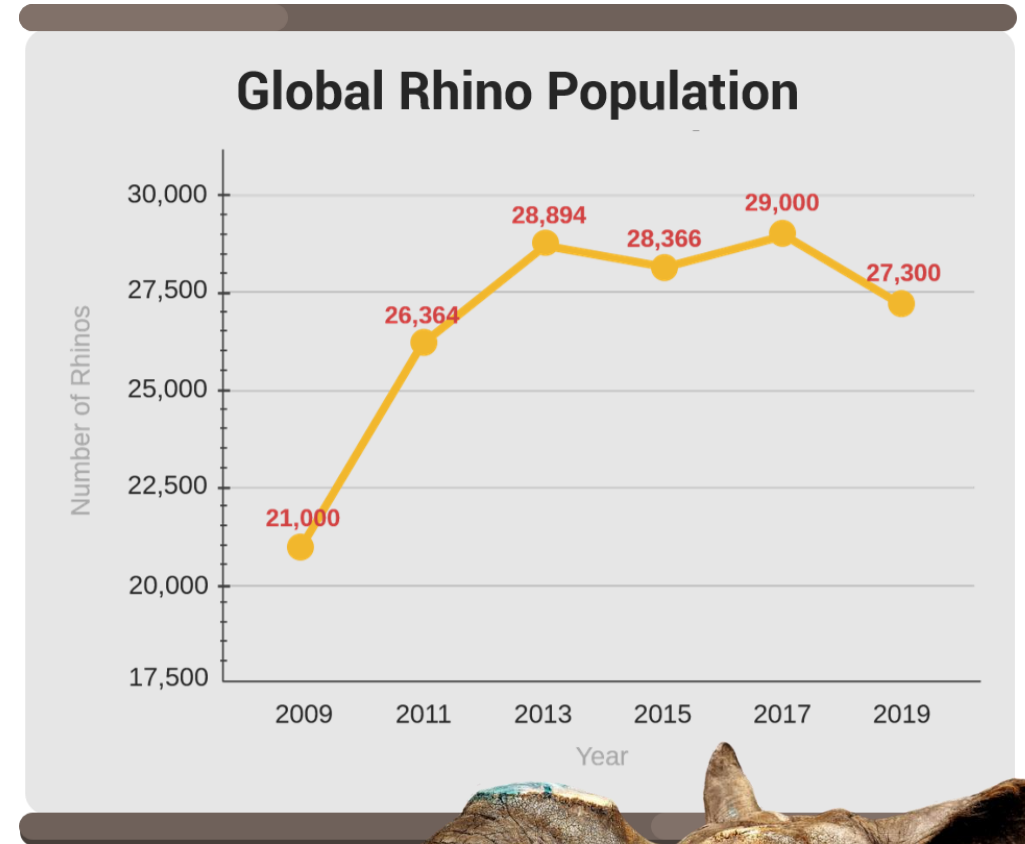


**data from IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group*



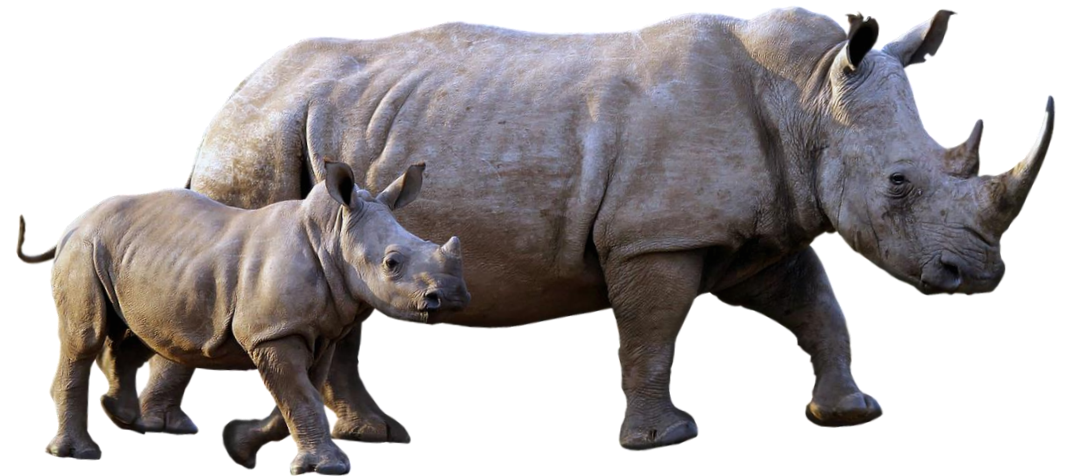
READ FOR MAIN IDEA

▶ The rise and fall of the rhino population reflects the challenges and successes of rhino conservation. The increase in rhino population from 2009 to 2013 was likely due to conservation efforts to reduce **poaching** and **habitat** loss. However, the decline to 27,300 in 2019 suggests that there is still ongoing poaching and habitat loss, as well as other factors such as climate change and disease. It is clear that more work is needed to ensure the safety and survival of these incredible creatures.



READ FOR MAIN IDEA

▶ In conclusion, the graph shows that the global rhino population has increased overall from 2009 to 2019, but there have been some fluctuations along the way. This suggests that progress has been made in rhino conservation, but there is still more work to be done. Protecting rhinos is important not only for their own survival, but also for the good of the ecosystem. We must double our efforts to ensure that these animals continue to thrive for future generations.



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The Objective

What do you think is the purpose of this essay?

A

The purpose of the essay is to discuss the places where rhinos can be found and why we should travel to those places.

B

The purpose of the essay is to discuss the changing number of rhinos in the world from 2009 to 2019 and the need to protect rhinos.

Main Idea for Paragraphs



Skim and underline.

1. Which sentence states the main idea of the essay?
2. What specific word(s) helped you identify that sentence?

Skimming Strategy

Look for **signal words or phrases** that indicate the purpose or focus of the essay.



Rhino Conservation Quest: Saving One Horn at a Time | Paragraph 1

The rhinoceros, known for its magnificent horn, is the second largest land mammal in the world, after the elephant. They also have the largest horns of any land mammal, with some horns growing up to five feet long. Rhinos play an important role in the ecosystem as herbivores, helping to control the growth of plants and trees. This essay explores the global rhino population from 2009 to 2019, showing significant changes in rhino conservation.

Main Idea for Paragraphs



Skim and tick the correct box.

- The main purpose of this paragraph is to highlight key data points from a graph.
- The main purpose of this paragraph is to describe all data shown in a graph.

Skimming Strategy

Check the numbers closely.

Graph descriptions usually provide only the most important data.



Rhino Conservation Quest: Saving One Horn at a Time | Paragraph 2

The graph shows the number of rhinos over a ten-year period. In 2009, there were 21,000 rhinos in the world, but this number increased sharply to 28,894 in 2013. From 2013 to 2017, the population fluctuated with a drop in 2015 followed by a rise in 2017. However, the population has decreased since then, reaching 27,300 in 2019.

Main Idea for Paragraphs



Skim and answer.

According to the paragraph, what is described as facing both challenges and successes?

Skimming Strategy

Look for **repeated words** which may signal the central focus of the paragraph.



Rhino Conservation Quest: Saving One Horn at a Time | Paragraph 3

The rise and fall of the rhino population reflects the challenges and successes of rhino conservation. The increase in rhino population from 2009 to 2013 was likely due to conservation efforts to reduce poaching and habitat loss. However, the decline to 27,300 in 2019 suggests that there is still ongoing poaching and habitat loss, as well as other factors such as climate change and disease. It is clear that more work is needed to ensure the safety and survival of these incredible creatures.

Main Idea for Paragraphs



Skim and answer True or False.

- _____ The purpose of this paragraph is to give an overall summary of the graph.
- _____ This paragraph aims to inform people to take action in order to get good results.

Skimming Strategy

Look for words or expressions that signal a **summary** and a **call-to-action**.



Rhino Conservation Quest: Saving One Horn at a Time | Paragraph 4

In conclusion, the graph shows that the global rhino population has increased overall from 2009 to 2019, but there have been some fluctuations along the way. This suggests that progress has been made in rhino conservation, but there is still more work to be done. Protecting rhinos is important not only for their own survival, but also for the good of the ecosystem. We must double our efforts to ensure that these animals continue to thrive for future generations.



Academic Vocabulary

mammal

ecosystem

herbivore

conservation

poaching

habitat

Read for Main Idea

SKIMMING STRATEGY

1. Look for **signal words or phrases** that indicate the purpose or focus of the essay.
2. **Check the numbers** closely. Graph descriptions usually provide only the **most important data**.
3. Look for **repeated words** which may signal the central focus of the paragraph.
4. Look for words or expressions that signal a **summary** and a **call-to-action**.





WHAT'S NEXT...

In the next lesson, we're going to read the essay "Rhino Conservation Quest: Saving One Horn at a Time" in detail. See you next time!