



Rhino Rise

Why are there more black rhinos?

- People are working hard to protect the black rhino.
- There are now 5360 in the wild. In 1995, there were 2410.

Photo: A black rhino.

Black Rhinos Are Increasing in Wild

The number of black rhinos in the wild is going up. There are now 5360 black rhinos in the wild. In 1995, there were only 2410.

So, why have their numbers increased? Wildlife group IUCN says people have worked very hard to look after black rhinos.

Governments have made it a crime to hunt them. **Poachers** often hunt rhinos for their horns.

Black rhinos are also being kept in **sanctuaries** surrounded by fences. Some groups have taken back black rhinos to their natural habitat.

Last year, five black rhinos were sent to a national park in Rwanda. They were sent from Europe to boost the numbers.

So, where do black rhinos live in the wild? Black rhinos are found in southern Africa. They mainly live on warm, dry grasslands called savannas.

The ICUN says nearly 100 years ago, there were a lot of black rhinos. Their numbers went down 'as a result of poaching'.

The group says it's pleased with today's news. The IUCN says black rhinos still need to be kept safe.

Acting director-general Grethel Aguilar said: "there is no room for **complacency**." The IUCN says the black rhino is still critically **endangered**.

This means that groups need to continue their work to protect the black rhino.

Glossary

poachers	People who hunt animals illegally.
sanctuaries	Safe places where animals are protected.
complacency	To stop concentrating on something or to lose focus on a task.
endangered	Very few in number and close to disappearing.

Questions

1. How many black rhinos are there in the wild today?

- ☐ 1200
- ☐ 2400
- ☐ 2410
- ☐ 5360

2. 'So why have their numbers increased?

Tick the verb that is closest in meaning to 'increased'.

- ☐ decreased
- ☐ risen
- ☐ stayed the same
- ☐ unchanged

3. 'Black rhinos are also being kept in sanctuaries surrounded by fences. '

This suggests that...

- ☐ rhinos need to be kept safe from poachers.
- ☐ rhinos don't face any problems.
- ☐ we don't need to worry about the rhinos.
- ☐ people are more worried about elephants.

4. Find and copy a piece of evidence that shows the black rhino still needs protecting.

5. How do you think scientists will feel about this story?

6. Write a summary of the story in 15 words or fewer.

Answers

1. How many black rhinos are there in the wild today?
 - ☐ 1200
 - ☐ 2400
 - ☐ 2410
 - ☒ **5360**
2. 'Black rhinos are also being kept in sanctuaries surrounded by fences.'
Tick the verb that is closest in meaning to 'increased'.
 - ☐ decreased
 - ☒ **risen**
 - ☐ stayed the same
 - ☐ unchanged
3. 'Black rhinos are also being kept in sanctuaries surrounded by fences.'
This suggests that...
 - ☒ **rhinos need to be kept safe.**
 - ☐ rhinos don't face any problems.
 - ☐ we don't need to worry about the rhinos.
 - ☐ people are more worried about elephants.
4. Find and copy a piece of evidence that shows the black rhino still needs protecting.
Accept any answer that refers to the story, e.g. The IUCN says the black rhino is still critically endangered.
5. How do you think scientists will feel about this story?
Accept any answer that refers to the story, e.g. I think they will be pleased because there are more black rhinos in the wild.
6. Write a summary of the story in 15 words or fewer.
Accept any reasonable summary that is 15 words or fewer, e.g. The number of black rhinos in the wild is going up.