

African

Animals



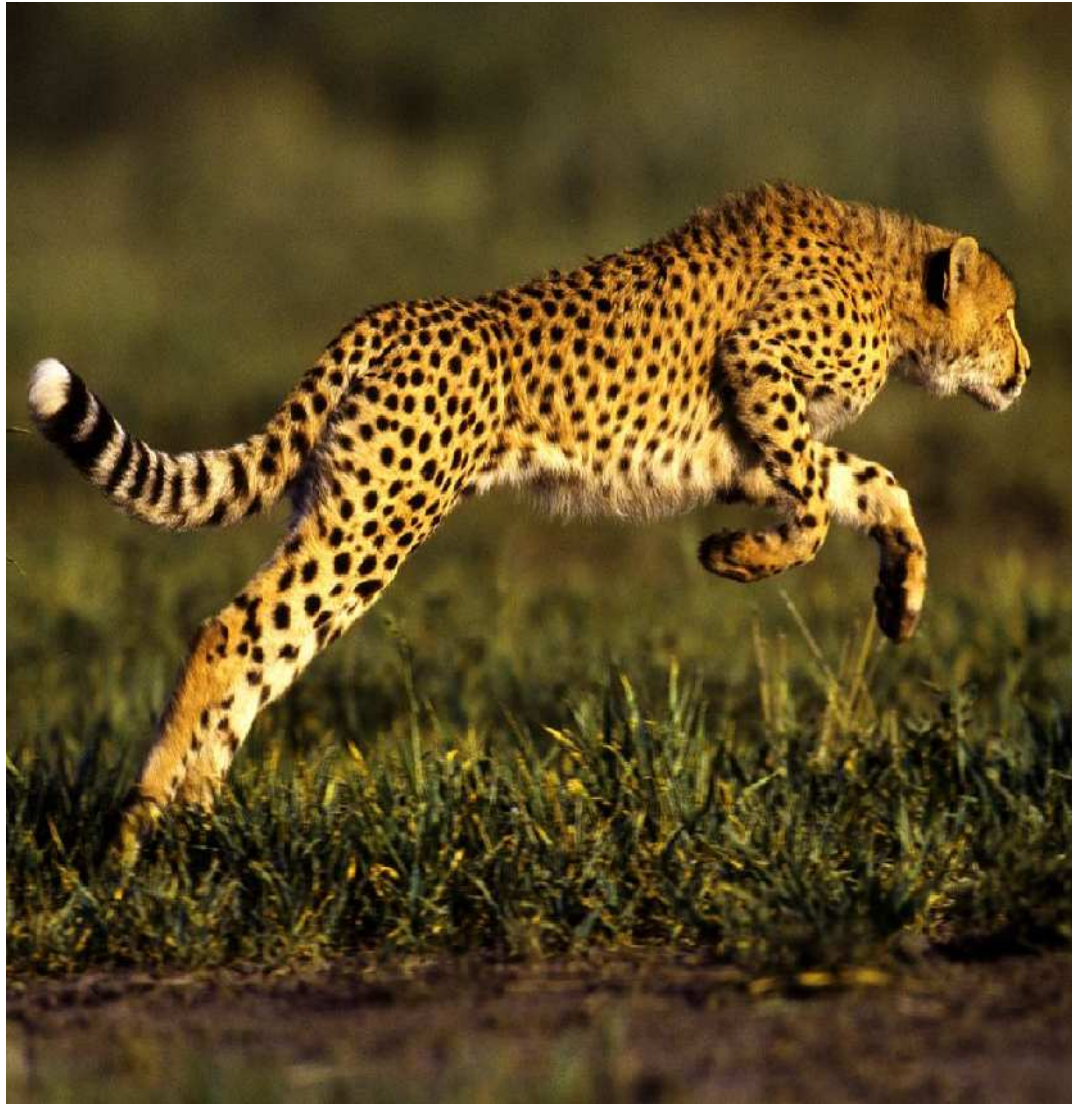
Lions



African Elephant



Cheetah



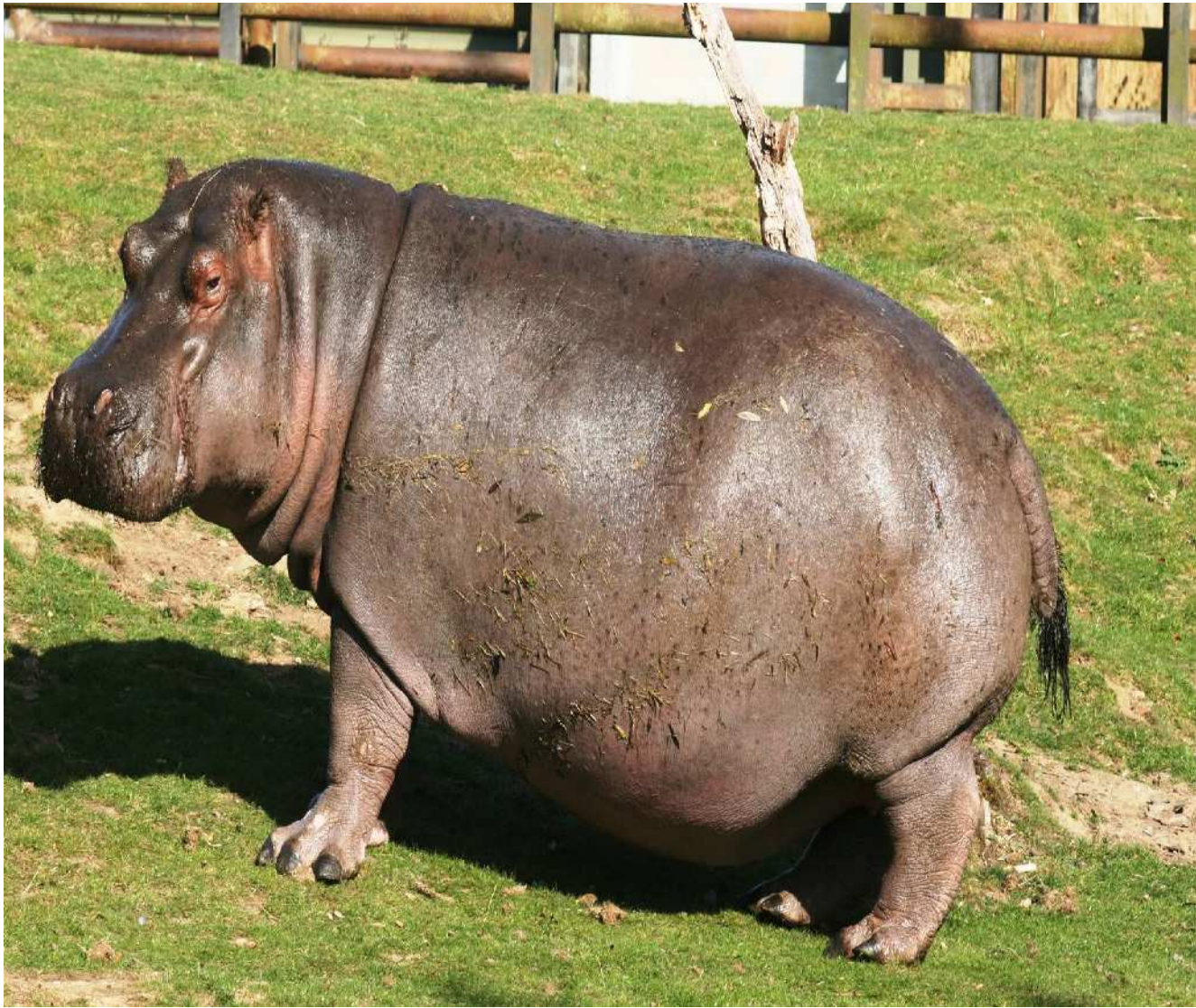
Gazelle



Giraffe



Hippopotamus



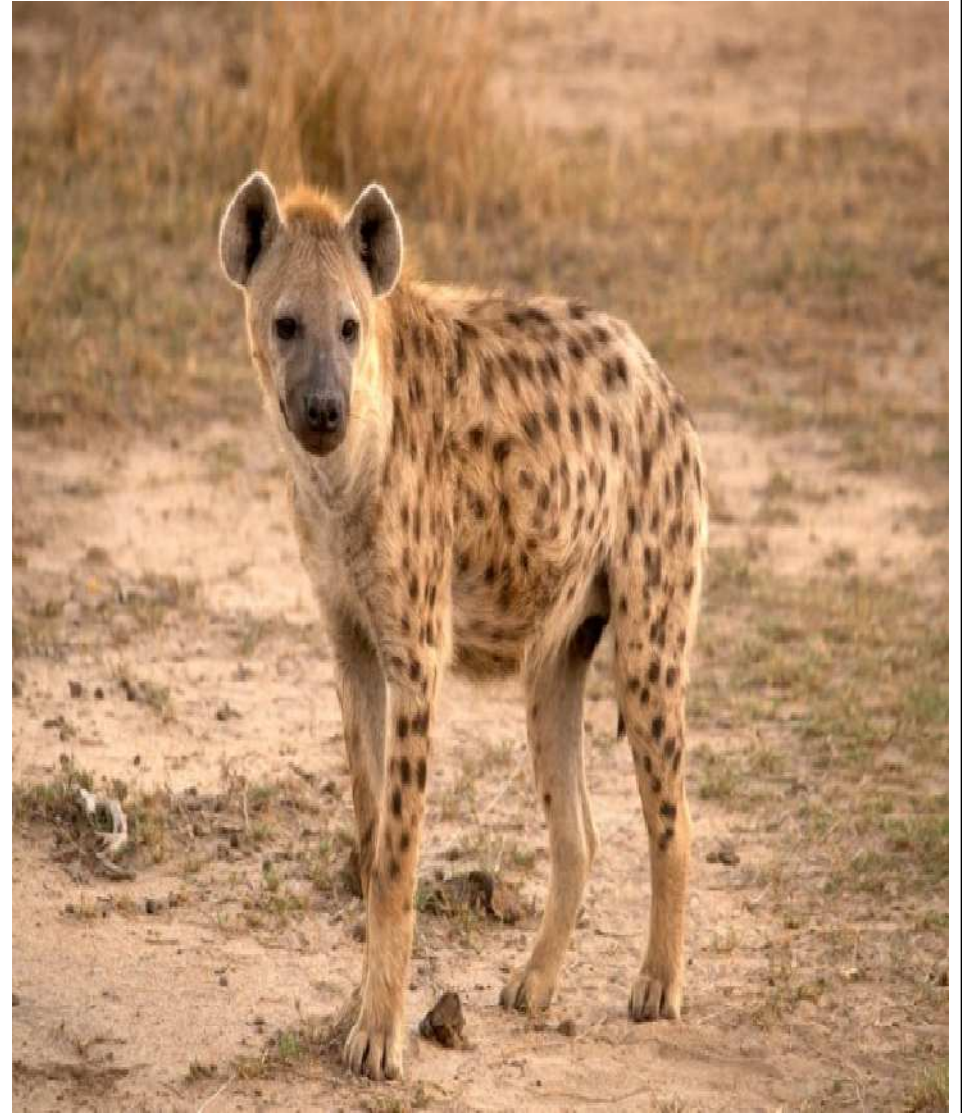
Zebra



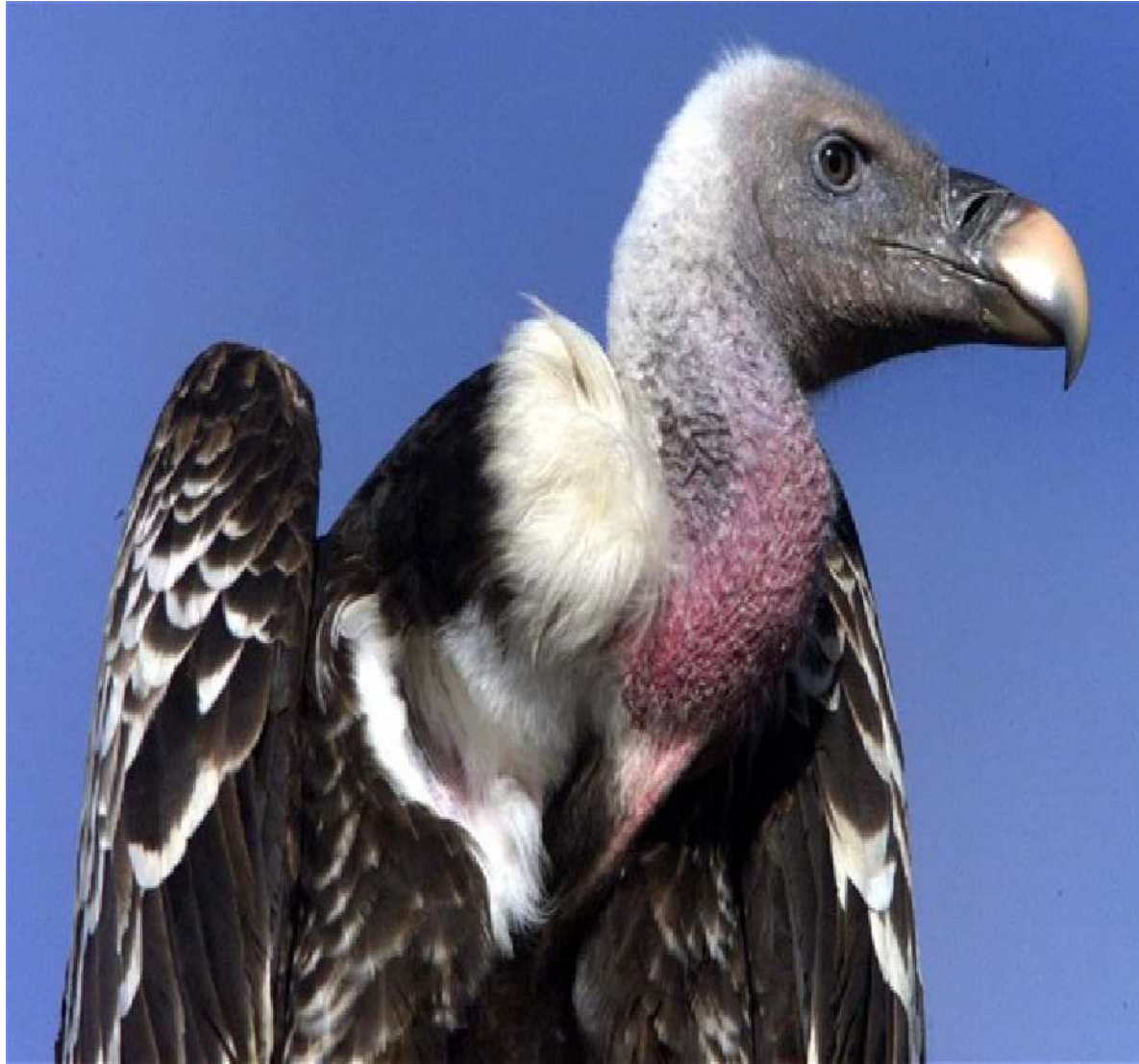
Rhinoceros



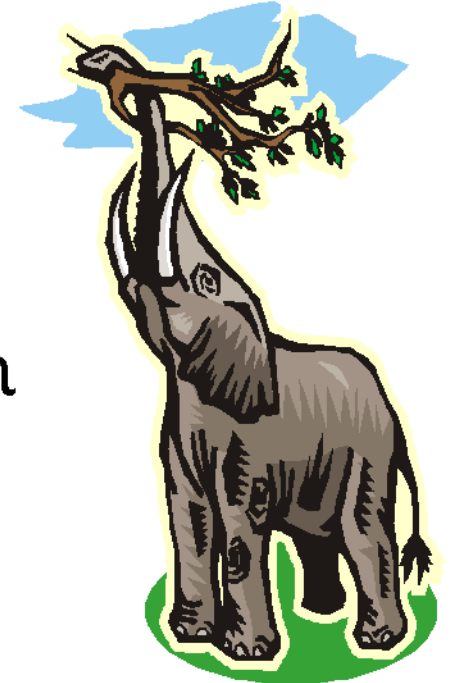
Hyena



Vulture

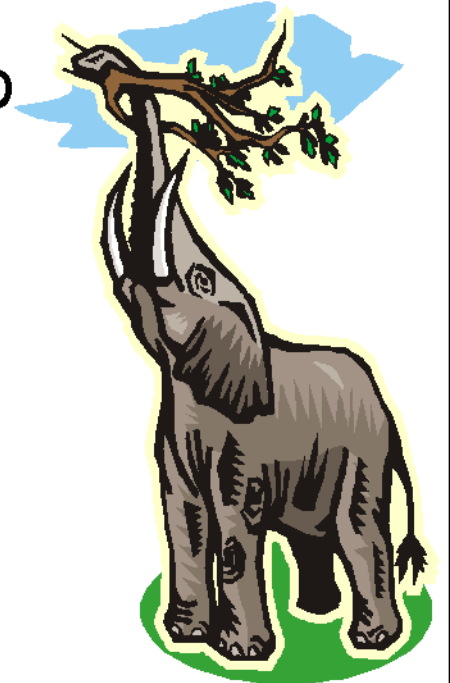


We are some of the biggest cats in the world. We live in big groups, called prides, in southern parts of Africa. We prefer to stay in groups because we are very friendly animals, and work well together to hunt food and care for our young. It is easy to tell the difference between a male and female, males have big furry manes, whereas the females have short fur. Males normally weigh up to a whopping 180kg and the females around 130kg! We can run at a speed of 50 miles per hour and our roars can be heard from nearly 5 miles away!



We are the largest animal in the world that lives on land. We are herbivores; this means that we only eat leaves, twigs and things like bamboo. In fact, we can spend up to 16 hours a day just collecting and eating food. We have very big ears, they help to control our body temperature, the amount of blood pumped into our ears controls how hot or cold we are.

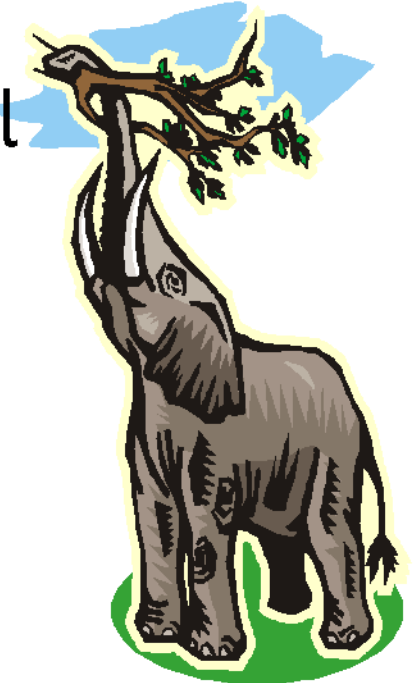
Believe it or not, we can actually swim! We can use our long trunk, which can be up to 2 metres long, as a snorkel!



We are the fastest land animals in the world; we can run at a speed of about 113km an hour and it only takes a few seconds for us to reach this speed! The only problem with being this fast is that we get tired very quickly and can only keep up this speed for a short amount of time. We weigh between 45-60kg, we are quite small compared to other members of the big cat family. We can be recognised by the lines on our faces, these are called “tear lines” and are thought to protect our eyes from the sun and allow us to see long distances. Unlike other big cats, we cannot roar and we only hunt during the day.

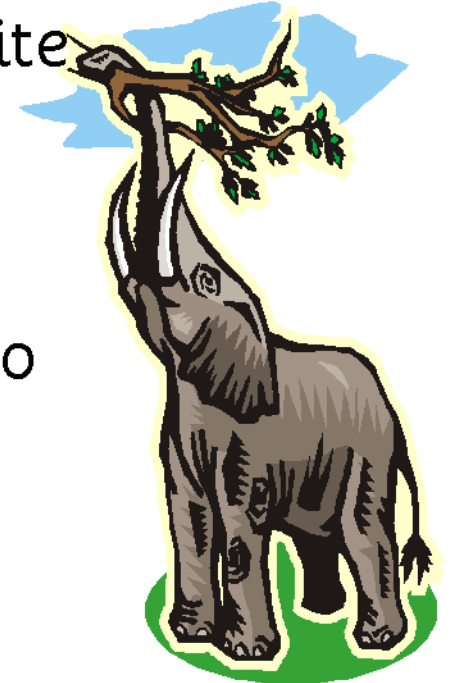
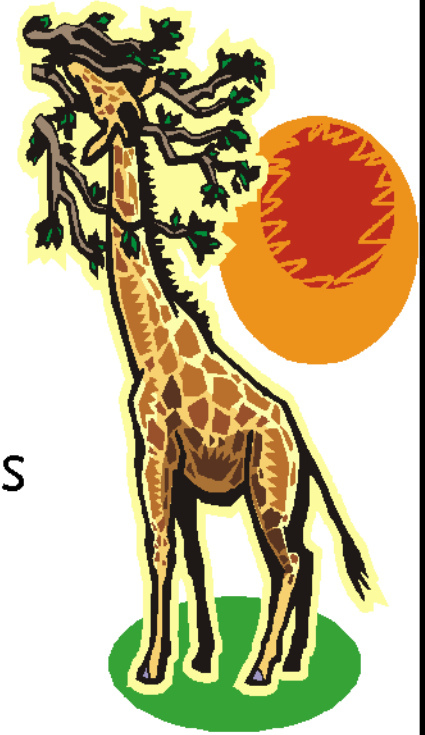


Over 19 species of us can be found in Africa. We are small animals, normally between half a metre and a metre tall; and usually about 12-75kg in weight. We always travel in groups, sometimes small groups of around 10 but sometimes in large groups with 100 or more of us. Unluckily for us, we are hunted a lot because we are a major source of food for many other animals. It's not all bad news though, we are very fast and we often rely on our speed to escape. We can run in short bursts at around 60mph, which is all we usually need to escape!



Living in African grasslands or open woodlands, we are easily recognisable by their long neck (which is normally between 1.5 and 1.8 metres in length).

Males can weigh as much as a van! This is around 1400kg! Another special feature about us is the spots on our fur; these are there to act as camouflage to protect us from predators. You can hardly even see us when we stand in front of trees and bushes despite us being so big! Our tongues are covered in bristly fur, which helps us eat, leaves from thorny Acacia trees. The most dangerous time for us is when we go to drink, because our head is down we cannot look out for predators and are very vulnerable.



We can be found throughout Africa, normally in rivers, lakes and swamps. We prefer to live near a water source because resting in water helps to keep our temperature down. We have very short legs but HUGE mouths! It is thought that we are closely related to Whales and Dolphins and that we evolved into land animals around 55million years ago. You might expect us to be very slow, but we can easily out run humans. We are very, very dangerous animals but usually only when we feel threatened by the loss of our habitat or by poachers trying to hunt us.



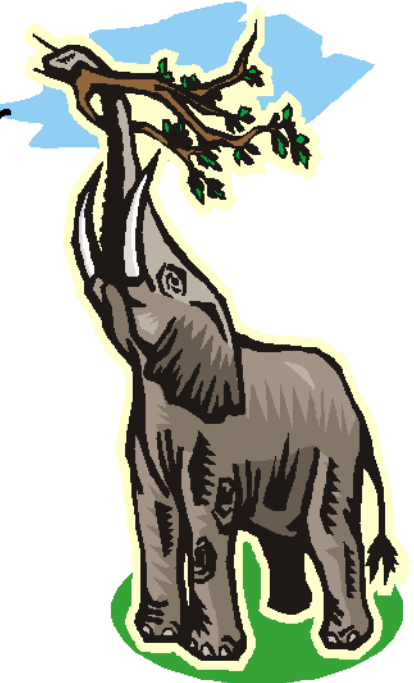
Although we are closely related to horses and donkeys, we are very different in that they have a very unique pattern on our fur; the black and white stripes we are known for. No one knows why we have this unique pattern on our fur, but most scientists think it is to do with camouflage. We have very good sight and hearing, helping us to avoid being caught by predators. We also have a very special style of running (they run from side to side), which helps us keep safe. We mainly eat grass and other small vegetation, sleep standing up and show how we are feeling through the position of our ears.



We can be found living in parts of Asia and Africa. There are 5 different species of us, only two of which live in Africa. All 5 types of us can weigh over 1000kg, the heaviest can weigh over 3500kg! Being so large, you'd expect there to be a lot of us around, but in fact three of our species are thought to be very endangered and close to being extinct. Hunters collect our horns, kill us for sport and for other parts of our bodies; although we are large animals and have thick protective skin, this doesn't help that much when it comes to being hunted. We are herbivores and only eat plants and leaves.



We live in central and Southern Africa, and can survive in many habitats, but we like to live where there is a lot of prey for us to eat, like Zebras and Antelopes. Our habitats are usually grasslands, woodlands and sometimes even mountains. We are carnivores; this means we only eat meat. We either hunt on our own or scavenge kills from larger animals like lions. Our powerful jaws make it easy for us to crush bones. We live in clans of between 5 and 90 individuals, we never hunt alone and are feared by smaller, weaker animals.



We are big, brown coloured birds. Males weigh 4.4 - 5.3 pounds, females weigh a little bit less. When we spread our wings, our wingspan can be over 6 feet. When we are flying our wings are held in a V shape, in an upward angle from our bodies. Our name means, "to tear." We have bald, red heads. It is good that our heads are bald; when we are feeding we don't get things stuck in our feathers! To keep warm we sometimes pull our head and neck into the feathered part around our neck so that we don't lose body heat. We mainly feed on dead bodies and weak animals; our sharp beak helps to tear into our prey.

