

Monday 8th June 2020 - Day 1

LO: I can read and respond to our model text

Over the next two weeks, we will be discovering strange creatures...

Today, we will be introduced to the Rhi-swano-zeb-tah.

Where the Wild Things Are

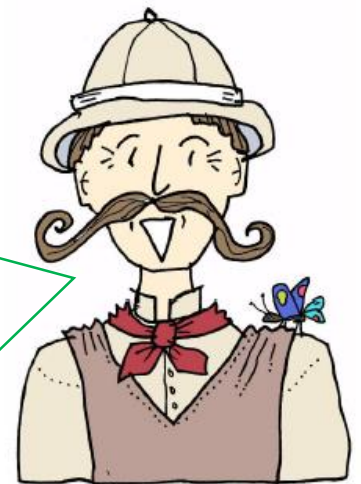
In 1963, Maurice Sendak wrote the picture book **Where the Wild Things Are**. Do you know it? In the story, Max, on the night he wore his wolf suit, went on a magical journey to the land of the Wild Things and became the king of these strange creatures. Eventually, he missed home and made the journey back to his bedroom where it all began. It's a brilliant story - use the ink below to listen to it and see the wonderful illustrations.

<https://cutt.ly/6yrU67Z>

In the story, there are many strange creatures that have not been seen before.

As an explorer, I discover strange creatures all the time on my travels around the world. I have become an expert at looking very carefully for animals as some are very good at hiding.

Here's a new creature I managed to photograph on my travels to Africa last year. It is the extremely rare Rhiswanozebtah. It is believed to contain DNA from four different animals. Can you guess what they are?



Get Exploring!



Yes - it's a mix of
rhino plus
swan plus the
o of rhino plus the start of
zebra and the end of
cheetah. Now you can pronounce it easily!

Task

Using his research, this explorer has written a non-chronological report so we can find out more about this remarkable animal.

1. Read the non-chronological report (below). Try to share the reading with an adult.



The Rhiswanozebtah

An information text
by Ted Splorer

The Rhiswanozebtah is an extremely rare, flying creature from the subfamily Rhinofelinae.

Rhiswanozebtahs, although uncommon, are easy to identify, as they are a mixture of four distinct animals. They have the head of a rhino, the body of a swan and zebra and the tail of a cheetah. They have a wingspan of 2.8 metres and can grow to over 5 metres in length, which means they are the largest flying creatures since Pterodactyl dinosaurs. Additionally, their skin tends to be covered in feathers but as they get older, the zebra stripes become more prominent. Their tails are covered in fur and their heads are covered in leathery, grey skin. However, juveniles are born completely bald and develop their fur, feathers and colourings when they mature.

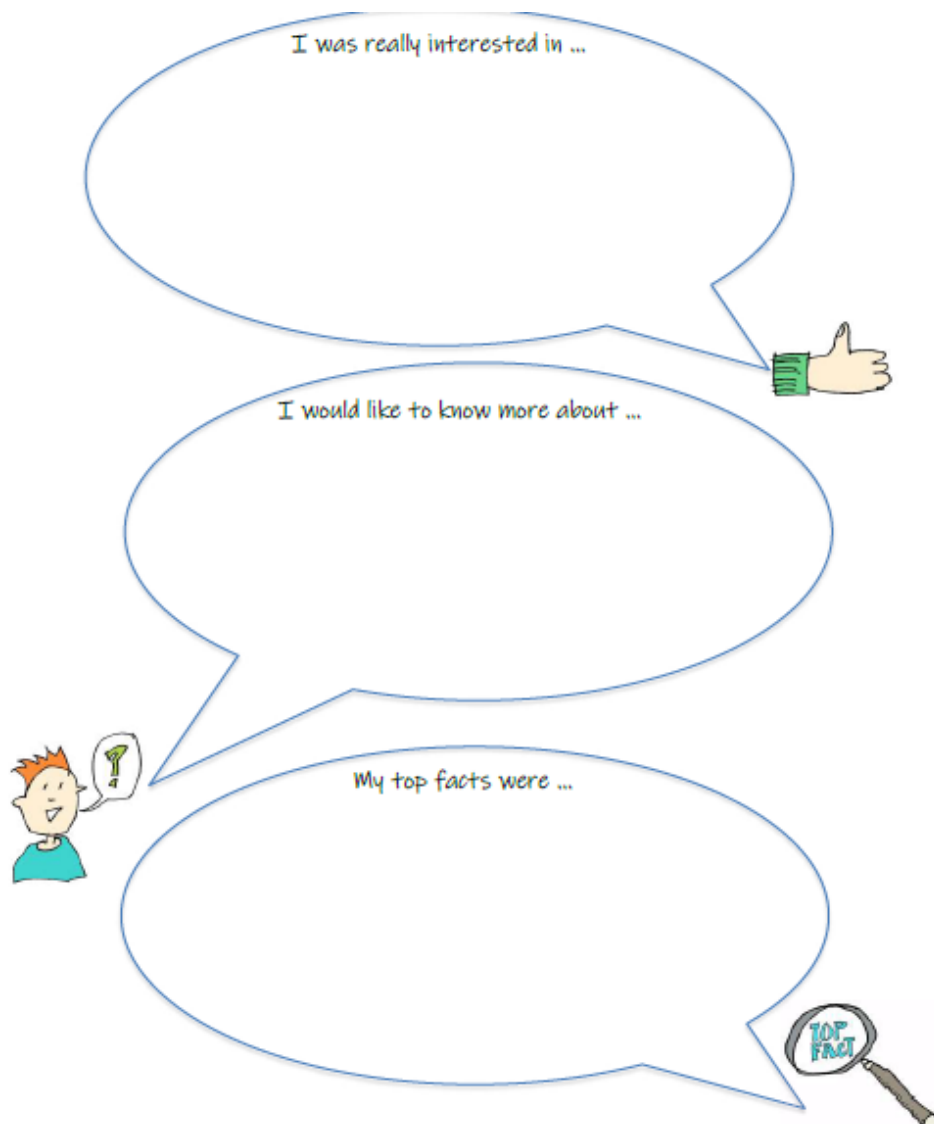
Most Rhiswanozebtahs are found across South Africa, although some have been known to inhabit the deepest rainforests of Venezuela. Amazingly, Rhiswanozebtahs like to burrow and therefore make their homes underground. They use their Rhino tusk to gouge the sun-baked soil and tunnel deep down, to create soil cocoons to sleep in. Some have been known to sleep in trees, but only the largest Kapok branches can support their enormous weight.

All Rhiswanozebtahs are carnivores and only eat meat. Interestingly, their favourite prey is the Springbok antelope, which they descend on from great heights and then wrestle to the ground. They have also been known to devour many smaller mammals such as African Wild Cats and aardvarks. Furthermore, many will guzzle gallons of water a day and sadly, these creatures can cause huge water shortages during the dry season.

As well as being the largest flying animal in the world, the Rhiswanozebtah is also the most talented. The majority can use their vocal cords to create the most beautiful morning chorus as the sun rises. This is with the exception of the young males. Their voices do not develop until they are 15 years old and some explorers have reported that their calls are high-pitched, squeaky and very unpleasant to listen to. In addition to this, and despite their size, all Rhiswanozebtahs are tremendously agile. They can stand on one leg for long stretches of time, roll and flip whilst running or flying and can balance on narrow branches and cliff edges when surveying for prey.

For many years, scientists have been secretly tracking the Rhiswanozebtahs in the wild and now know that there are only approximately 625 roaming the savannahs and nesting in rainforests. Amazingly, however, there have been rare sightings in other parts of the world, so just maybe, the Rhiswanozebtah will be spotted in a neighbourhood near you in the not-so-distant future.

2. Now you have found out more about the Rhiswanozebtah, copy these thought bubbles into your book and complete them.



Challenge Be a word explorer! Jot down any unfamiliar words from the text. What might they mean? Make a prediction. Now ask an adult or use a dictionary to find out!