



HOW THE RHINOCEROS GOT HIS SKIN

by Rudyard Kipling

Long ago, near the shores of the Red Sea, there lived a great Rhinoceros who was as rude as could be. He had no manners then and no manners now, and in fact, he will never have any manners! And in those days, his skin fit him quite nicely—smooth and tight, with no wrinkles anywhere.

One day, the Rhinoceros spotted a traveler, who was baking up something delicious on his little portable stove. He sniffed and sniffed... mmm and he caught the smell of sweet-cake in the air! The hungry Rhinoceros, being quite rude and all, decided to charge the poor traveler, and using his horn as a spear he stole the sweet-cake right off the stove. Little did he know, this traveler was a crafty one. He would not let this go just yet...

A few weeks later, there was a heat wave in the Red Sea. Everyone came down to the

beach to swim and sunbathe, including the great, rude Rhinoceros. Back then, he could unbutton his skin with three buttons along his belly. He left his skin on the beach and waddled into the water. Just then, the crafty traveler passed by carrying a bundle. His bundle contained weeks' worth of stale sweet-cake crumbs he'd been collecting

at his campsite. He dumped the whole bag of scratchy crumbs into the Rhinoceros's heap of skin, and then he snuck away.

When the Rhinoceros returned, he buttoned up his skin as usual, but it tickled like cake crumbs! Every time he scratched it made the tickling worse. The Rhinoceros rolled and ran, and rubbed his skin against trees and rocks until it rubbed into great folds over his shoulders and legs.

He even rubbed off the buttons on his belly. The sweet-cake crumbs were inside there for good, and even today the Rhinoceros is grumpy and itchy, with great folds all over his dry skin.

And that was how the Rhinoceros got his skin.



ACTIVITIES

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Circle the best answer.

Why did traveler put crumbs in Rhinoceros' skin?

- A. Because he thought Rhinoceros was funny
- B. Because he wanted it to rain
- C. Because he thought Rhinoceros' skin was an oven
- D. Because Rhinoceros stole the traveler's cake

Why did Rhinoceros take off his skin?

- A. Because he was going into the water
- B. Because his skin had cake crumbs in it
- C. Because the traveler stole his cake
- D. Because it was snowing

How did the Rhinoceros remove his skin?

- A. He asked the traveler to cut it off.
- B. He speared his skin with his horn.
- C. He unbuttoned three buttons on his belly.
- D. He ate so much cake that his skin split open.

WORD MEANINGS

Circle the answer for the words that have a similar meaning to words from "How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin."

Rude

"Long ago, near the shores of the Red Sea, there lived a great Rhinoceros who was as rude as could be. He had no manners then and no manners now, and in fact, he will never have any manners!"

- A. old; ancient
- B. silly, not serious
- C. happy; care-free
- D. rough; not polite

Crafty

"Little did he know, this traveler was a crafty one. He would not let this go just yet..."

- A. strong and brave
- B. smart and tricky
- C. magical and wise
- D. wet and cold

Waddled

"He left his skin on the beach and waddled into the water."

- A. ran very fast
- B. jumped
- C. walked by moving side to side
- D. rolled like a ball

ORDER OF EVENTS

Put the events from the story "How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin" in the correct order.

Event	Order #
The traveler put cake crumbs in Rhinoceros' skin.	_____
Rhinoceros stole the traveler's cake.	_____
Rhinoceros had dry wrinkly skin.	_____
Rhinoceros went to the beach.	_____
Rhinoceros had smooth skin.	_____
Rhinoceros rubbed his skin against the trees and rocks.	_____
The traveler cooked a sweet-cake.	_____

RHINO WORD SEARCH

Word List

BUTTONS	RUDE
CAKE	SKIN
CRAFTY	TRAVELER
CRUMBS	WADDLED
HORN	WRINKLES
RHINOCEROS	

D R X M H I Y T W S X U
 D G H O B T V R V K I V
 U E R I F L I A G I X M
 V N L A N N T V U N Z G
 Y Z R D K O F E E O D S
 B C H L D P C L A M Y B
 D I E B C A K E T I I M
 R S M V V I W R R H J U
 O N Z N M R R U V O X R
 S N O T T U B U S B S C
 C D D P A Y G Z D Z A M
 E B U D M O K L P E I X



