

English

Wednesday 10th June



Read the information text below:

The Rhiswanozebtah

The Rhiswanozebtah is an extremely rare, flying creature from the sub-family 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 armadillos. 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.



Word:	Definition:
juveniles	Anything young e.g. animals, humans, plants
prominent	Something that stands out and can be seen easily
inhabit	To live somewhere
gouge	To make a rough hole in something
agile	Moving quickly and easily
surveying	Looking out for something
prey	An animal that is hunted by another animal

Use your reading skills to answer the following comprehension questions:

1. What are the four distinct animals that make up the Rhiswanozebtah?
2. The Rhiswanozebtah likes to sleep in patches of grass. Is that statement TRUE or FALSE? Why?
3. What evidence is there to suggest that the Rhiswanozebtah is agile?
4. Find and copy a word that is closest in meaning to unlikable.
5. The text refers to areas the Rhiswanozebtah inhabits. What are they?
6. Look at the table below. Tick the food that the Rhiswanozebtah would eat:

	Would eat	Wouldn't eat
Rabbits		
Cauliflower		
Leaves		
Snakes		
Water buffalo		

7. Why might the Rhiswanozebtah be so rare?
8. Which section of the text tells you about what the Rhiswanozebtah can do? Write the opening sentences of that section.
9. Give two ways in which the Rhiswanozebtah could be a nuisance.
10. At the end of the text it states:

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.

What might happen if a Rhiswanozebtah did make its home near to where you live?

List the things that you might witness as a result of this new creature moving in. Consider all the facts about how it behaves.