

Kley Interp Binder



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Kley Interpretive Station Guidelines:

When staffing the Kley interpretive station:

1. Find all of the biofacts that you will need and place them into a box for transportation (a list of all of the biofacts you need can be found in this binder).
2. Get a silver metal table out of the exhibit hall and set it up outside of the exhibit you are interpreting that day (try to keep the table out of the walking path and away from doors).
3. Place tablecloth on the table.
4. Group and place the Biofacts and laminated info sheets based on species.
5. **KEEP AN EYE ON BIOFACTS AT ALL TIMES.**
6. An adult must accompany small children at all times.
7. Follow the talking point outline in the binder.
8. If you have to leave, put everything away in the box and take it back to DC. Do not leave anything unattended.
9. **Reminder: Zooteens must always travel in pairs, unless stated otherwise!**
10. **At the end of the day**, put the table back in the exhibit hall, put all biofacts back in the box, and pack it back up to DC.
11. Record each topic discussed during your shift in the binder.
12. Return biofacts and binder to the docent area where they were found.

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Biofacts for Kley Interpretation:

Biofacts:	
Biofact:	Use:
Stuffed monitor lizard	Let participants touch to get an idea of what a Komodo dragon kind of feels like.
Python eggs in alcohol	Use to discuss eggs.
Rhino horn	Let participants touch the horn and explain why it was removed.

Biofacts Talking Points:

1. Use the stuffed monitor lizard to give people a general idea of what Komodo's feel like.
 - a. Explain that it is not exactly what they feel like, but fairly close.
2. The eggs in alcohol are not Komodo eggs, but they are still oviparous eggs.
 - a. Komodo dragons are oviparous, which means that they lay their eggs, where they develop outside of the mother before they hatch.
 - i. Rather than viviparous or ovoviviparous.
 1. Viviparous: develops inside of the mother's uterus (no egg) and is born live.
 2. Ovoviviparous: mothers carry eggs inside her body while they develop and they hatch just before the live birth.
3. Let people see and touch the rhino horn (do not let go of it, go around and let them touch).
 - a. This is Mechi's actual horn.
 - i. It was removed because it had an abscess in it.



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Animal Talking Points:

Komodo Dragon:

Habitat:

1. Komodo dragons inhabit the island of Komodo, along with a few other Indonesian Islands including Flores, Padar, and Rintja.
 - a. They range freely on the islands they inhabit from ridge tops to beaches, but they actually live in the tropical savanna forests.

Physical Characteristics:

2. Komodo dragons are the largest living lizards on the planet.
 - a. On average, Komodo dragons weigh around 150 pounds.
 - i. The largest on record was 10.3 feet long and 366 pounds.
 - b. Males tend to be larger than females, but there are no apparent morphological differences that separate the sexes.
3. Adult Komodo dragons are a mostly uniform, stone color.
 - a. Juveniles tend to be more vibrant in color and pattern.

Reproduction:

4. Breeding occurs from May to August and usually happens while dragons are gathering around a carcass for feeding.
 - a. Males compete for females through combat rituals.
 - i. They stand up on their back legs (using their tail for support) and grab each other with their forearms attempting to throw the other male on the ground.
 1. These battles often end in blood and with the loser either running away or motionless on the ground.
 - b. Females lay around 30 eggs in stolen nests or in depressions that they dig on a hill slope.
 - i. Once they hatch, the babies seem to be on their own as there is no evidence that there is any parental care in Komodo dragons.
 1. Hatchlings are very small, weighing less than 3.5 pounds and about 16 inches long.
 - a. They are often victims to older Komodo dragons and predators in their early years.
 - i. They will grow slowly throughout the rest of their lives.

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- c. Komodo dragons can also reproduce parthenogenetically!
 - i. This means that a female can produce offspring without male fertilization!
 - 1. We have two females here at Mesker Park Zoo and it is a possibility that they could become pregnant even though we do not have a male.



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Indian Rhino:

Habitat:

1. The Indian rhinoceros (also known as Greater One-Horned Rhino) can be found in Nepal and northern India.
 - a. Although, they used to be commonly found from Myanmar to Pakistan.
 - b. They inhabit the tall-grasses of these areas and can be found spending the hot parts of the day in the water.

Physical Characteristics:

2. Indian rhinos have some characteristics that are noticeably different from their other rhino cousins.
 - a. They only have one horn, rather than two.
 - i. Hence the scientific name “Rhinoceros unicornis”.
 1. The only other rhino that has one horn is the Javan rhino, also called the lesser one-horned rhino.
 - b. They have natural body armor of segmented hide. Between their thicker “plates” of hide, there is flexible skin that allows the plates to shift as the rhino moves.

Reproduction:

3. When a female is receptive for mating, she will wander into a male’s heavily guarded territory.
 - a. The male will approach the female vocalizing with “hic-pants, which is a breathy inhale that ends in a hiccup sound.”
 - i. If the mating was successful, a baby will be born about 15-16 months later.
 1. After birth, baby rhinos are up and nursing in two to three hours and they will continue to nurse until they are 12-18 months old (males nurse longer due to them growing larger than females).
 - a. Mothers can tend to her calf for as long as four year.
 - i. However, she will force them into independence if she has another baby. b. Males have nothing to do with the care of their infants.

Longevity:

4. The lifespan of Indian rhinos is around 40 years in the wild.
 - a. Our female, Mechi, was born in 1986.
 - i. Making her 34 years old as of February 1st.

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Diet:

5. Like all rhinos, the Indian rhino is a grazing animal.
 - a. While they graze, they travel through tunnel-like paths that are well established by the rhinos in their tall-grass habitat.
 - i. They use their prehensile lip to grab onto the tall grass that they are eating.
 2. Other than grass, Indian rhinos eat: leaves, fruit, occasional farm crops, and occasional aquatic plants.
 - a. They avoid the heat by foraging in the cooler morning and afternoon.

Threats in the Wild and Conservation:

6. Rhinos have been largely unchallenged by other animals.
 - a. But a new and deadly enemy came along with the advent of high-powered weapons—humans.
 - i. The Indian rhino's main threat in the wild is poaching for their horn.
 2. Their hard, hair-like horn is revered for medicinal uses in Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and China.
 - a. But rhino horn is made from the same substance that makes up our hair and fingernails, so it has no healing properties.
 - i. Trying to stop the slaughter of rhinos, African countries began to implement protections for rhinos, China started disapproving of the use of rhino horn in traditional medicines, and the Middle East started using synthetic materials for their dagger handles, rather than rhino horn.
 3. These efforts measurably reduced rhino hunting but, unfortunately, that has all changed today.
 - a. The price of rhino horn has increased drastically and the greed of humans has grown along with it.
 - i. There is heavy poaching in South Africa, where the average loss is about 3 rhinos per day.
 4. Intensive habitat and anti-poaching efforts have helped some rhinos make a comeback in the wild.
 - a. In Indonesia, poaching has been almost eliminated due to the country's Rhino Protection Units.
 - i. Because of this, Sumatran rhino numbers have risen to about 100 animals.
7. Zoos, like San Diego Zoo, have done a lot of conservation work with rhinos.
 - a. San Diego Zoo has the most successful breeding program, under human care, than any other facility in the world.

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- i. They have had a total of 184 births since the 1970s; 13 black rhinos, more than 65 Indian rhinos, and more than 90 southern white rhinos.
 1. This is an amazing achievement for these three threatened species.
 - a. San Diego Zoo is working to save the Indian rhino (greater one-horned rhino) by translocating individuals directly into safe wild territory in Manas National Park.
 - i. There are currently about 3,300 Indian rhinos in their native habitat.
8. Rupert was born at Oklahoma City Zoo on June 21st 2014 as a part of the Species Survival Plan for Indian Rhinos.
 - a. Rupert arrived at Mesker Park Zoo on November 27th 2017.
 - i. Below are photos of baby Rupert and his mother Niki.



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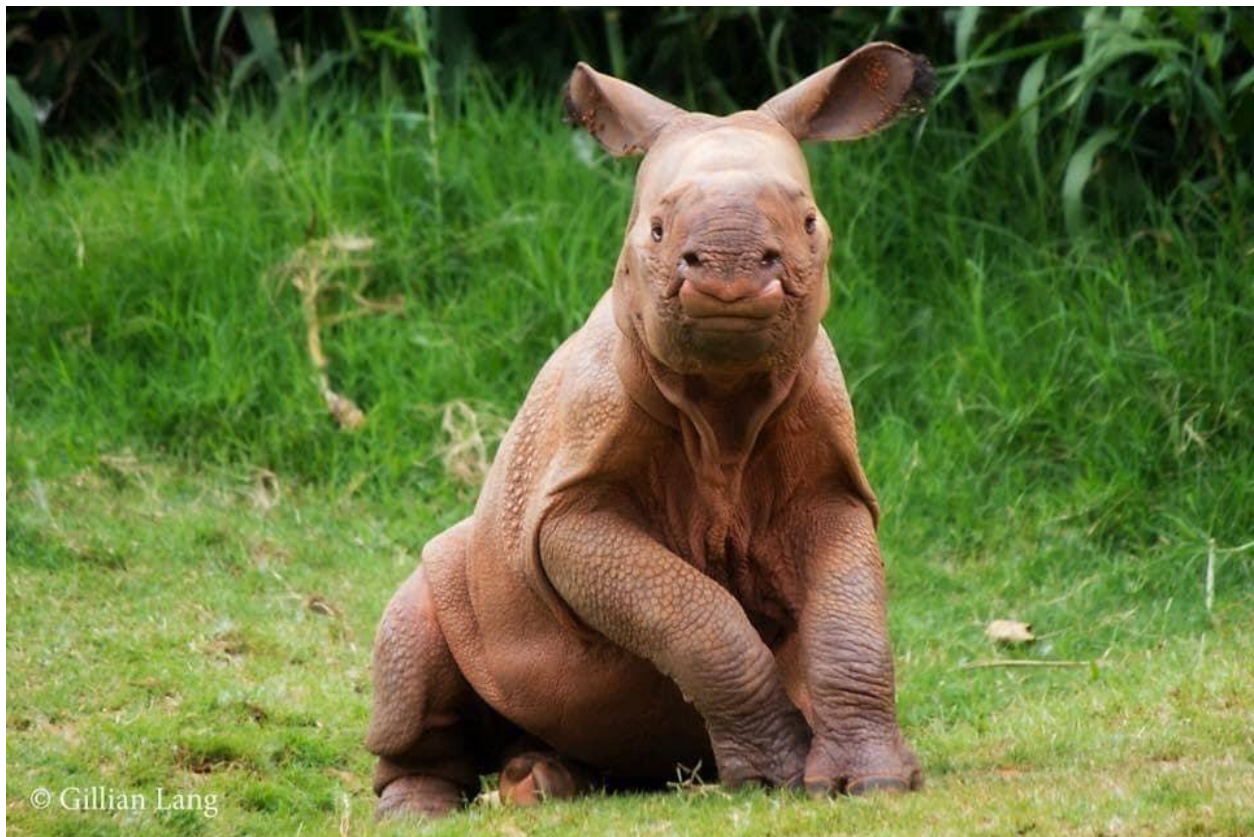
Facts About Our Individuals:

Komodo Dragons:

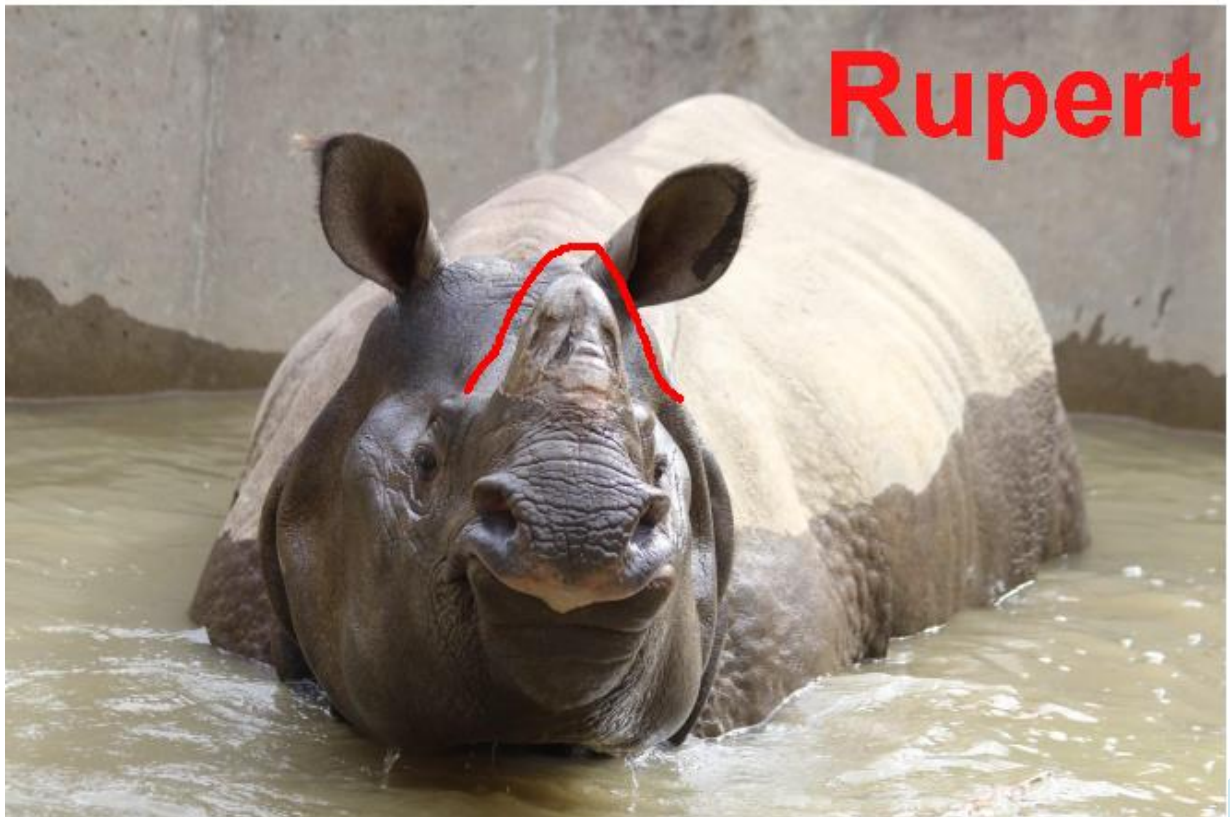
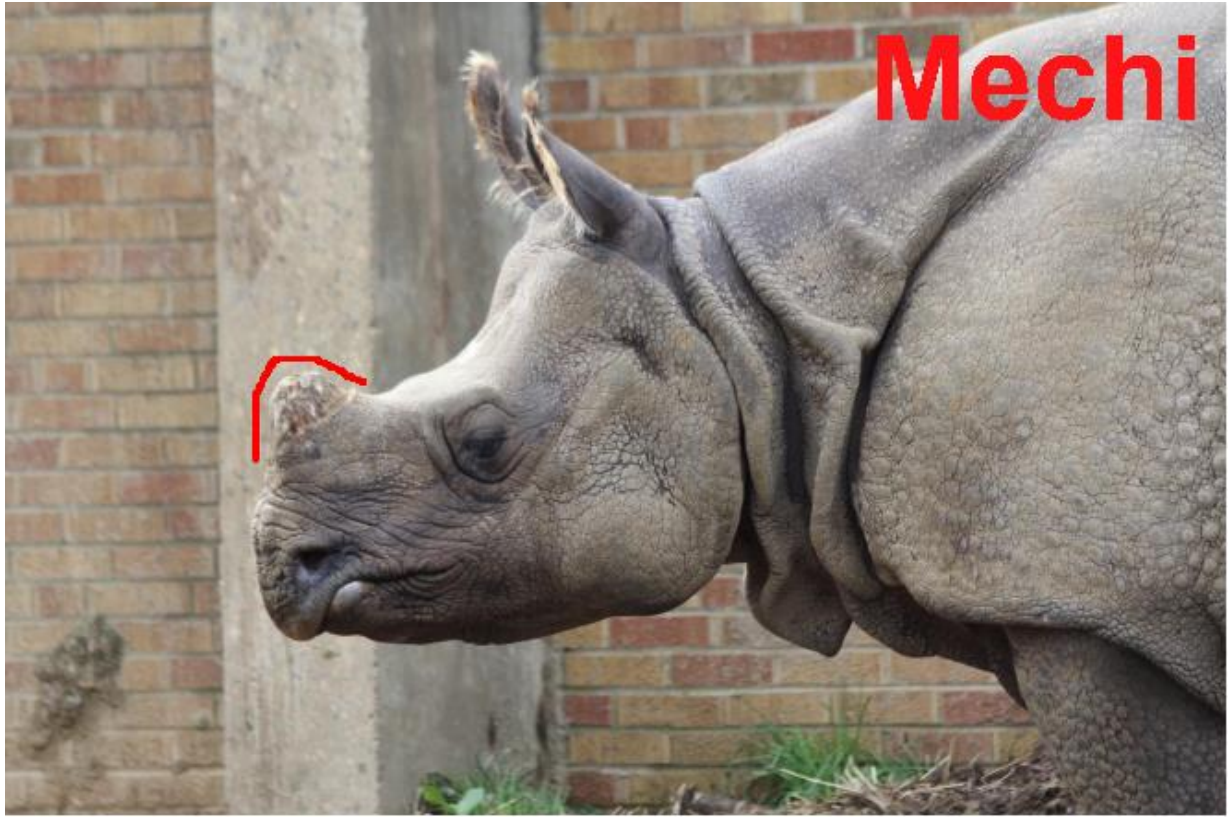
Name	Gender	Defining Features
Naga	Female	
Orochi	Female	

Indian Rhinos:

Name	Gender	Defining Features
Mechi	Female	Shorter, rounder, rougher horn.
Rupert	Male	Taller, leaner, smooth horn, can sometimes be reddish in color in the winter.



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References:

Komodo Dragon:

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/komodo-dragon>

Indian Rhino:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/i/indian-rhinoceros>

<https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/rhinoceros>