

# THE MOST FAMOUS RHINOCEROS

TEACHERS' RESOURCE AS A GUIDE TO  
EXPLORING THIS BOOK

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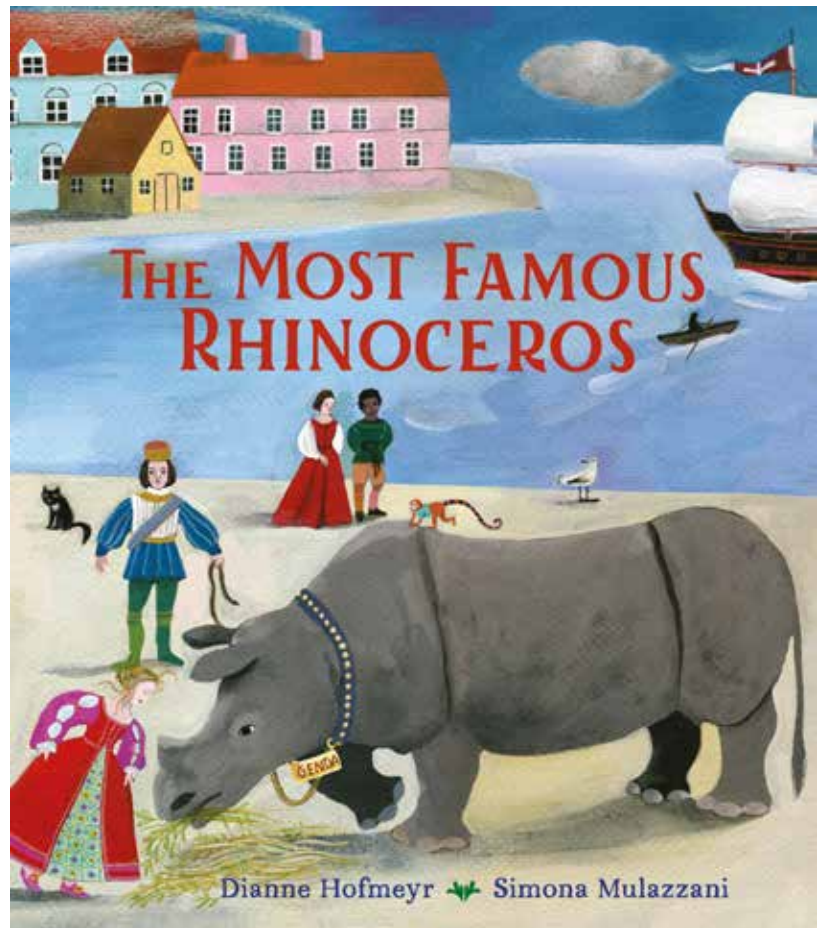
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[www.otterbarrybooks.com](http://www.otterbarrybooks.com)



## 1. WHAT DO YOU SEE ON THE COVER?

- Where do you think the story takes place?
- How do you think the rhinoceros got there?
- Is this a modern story, or from long ago? Why do think this?
- Why do you think the girl is curtsying to the rhinoceros?
- Who do you think the monkey belongs to?
- What do you think the story might be about?
- Why are there two names on the cover?



## 2. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE END-PAPERS OF THE STORY MIGHT TELL US?



- Are they telling us about another time in the story?
- Or do you think they are about the same time as the cover?
- Can you find any creatures between the leaves?

### 3. EXPLORE THE MOOD OF THE STORY

Before you read the book, look at these scenes without reading the words and imagine what is happening and what music might be perfect for them.

Use the 3 spreads below, or choose your own, then close your eyes and listen to soundbites, or music and decide which one fits with each scene.

*(free soundscapes from websites like soundbible.com etc)*

What can you see in your head?

How do you feel?

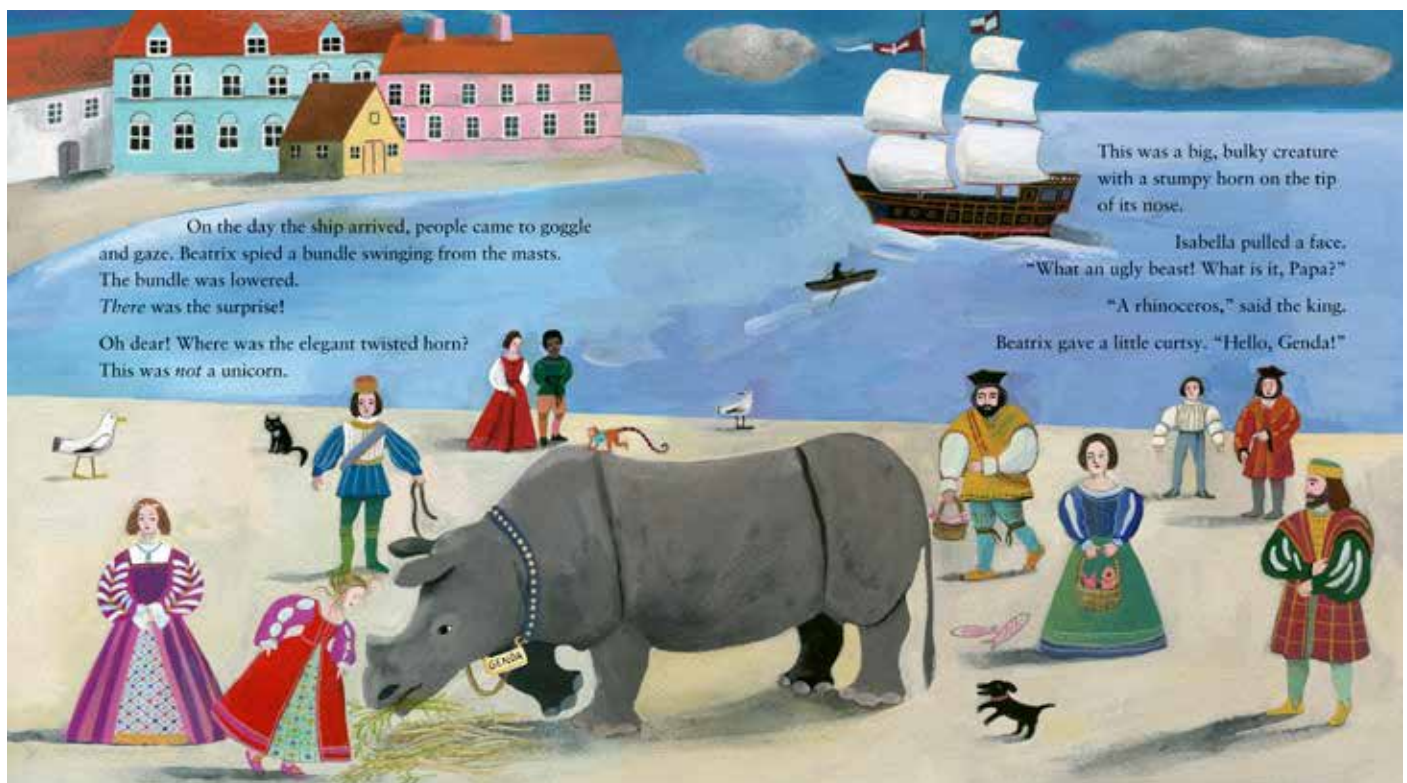
What do you smell?

Apart from the music, can you imagine or hear any other sounds?

Is the music fast? Slow? Noisy? Quiet? Scary?

*(Teacher writes up words as they emerge for each scene. These can later be used for a creative writing session)*

#### A. The Arrival



Choice of sounds below for teachers

<https://www.videvo.net/sound-effect/bird-seagull/405447/> (seagulls and waves)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0AmfPQM4k> (medieval harbour sounds... very long but play for first 2-5 minutes for atmosphere)

<https://pixabay.com/sound-effects/search/parade/> (excited voices in a crowd could also be used for double-spread below)

## B. The Parade



Then came João on his elephant, trailed by Luis, Ferdinand, Alfonso, Isabella and Henrique, each riding a camel, an ostrich, a cheetah, even a giraffe and a panther. Baby Duarte came next in his basket strapped to an ostrich-plumed zebra, with servants carrying golden cages of exotic birds to delight him.

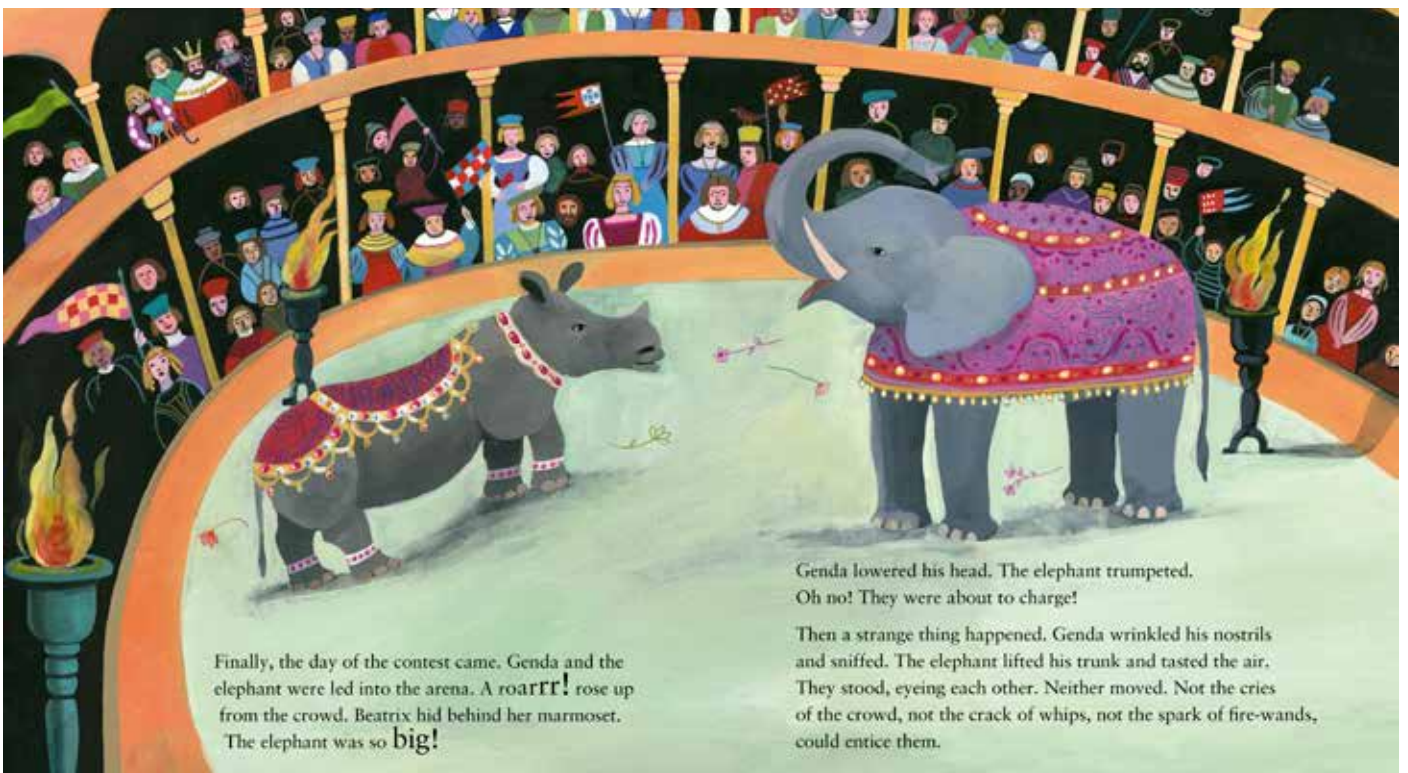
Such grandeur! Such splendour! Such spectacle!

But Beatrix had seen it all before. She rushed ahead. "Don't be afraid!" she whispered in Genda's ear. "You'll get used to this."

<https://www.silvermansound.com/free-music/clowning-around> (circus-like music)

<https://pixabay.com/sound-effects/search/parade/> (crowd noises and music)

## C. The Combat



Finally, the day of the contest came. Genda and the elephant were led into the arena. A **roarrr!** rose up from the crowd. Beatrix hid behind her marmoset. The elephant was so **big!**

Genda lowered his head. The elephant trumpeted. Oh no! They were about to charge!

Then a strange thing happened. Genda wrinkled his nostrils and sniffed. The elephant lifted his trunk and tasted the air. They stood, eyeing each other. Neither moved. Not the cries of the crowd, not the crack of whips, not the spark of fire-wands, could entice them.

(the URL below gives traditional Indian tiger dance music which I believe has the perfect tension for two animals, both from India.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fO-WHHJOUY>

### 3. READ THE STORY AND EXPLORE SPECIAL WORDS

Read the story for the first time. Afterwards discuss the special words that tell you more. Write these up on the board and discuss.

hair like a haystack

marmoset

Sultan of Gujarat (pronounced goo-joo-raat)

terrestrial globe

lemurs

jewel colours

silk '*studded*' with pearls

ostrich-plumed

exotic

grandeur

spectacle

### 5. ACT OUT SCENES FROM THE STORY

Make crowns and dress up in cloaks and jewels for the royalty. Paint cardboard masks to help with animal scenes e.g. for the parade and combat. Use tassels and stick-on jewels, even small bells, for the animals' cloaks. Don't forget some trumpet sounds, tambourines and drums to add atmosphere. Crowd scenes are important for waving flags and cheering.



## 6. EXPLORE PLACES AROUND THE WORLD WHERE WE FIND RHINOCEROS.

**A. Look at Google Earth or use an Atlas and ‘fly’ over the jungles of India and Java and the Savannah of Africa.**

Zoom in to see where rhinoceros live in the wild (in some places there are only a few left of certain species).

What similarities or differences can you see between India and Africa and your own country on Google Earth? Mountains? Farming areas? Cities? Jungles? Grasslands? Thorn trees? Open spaces?

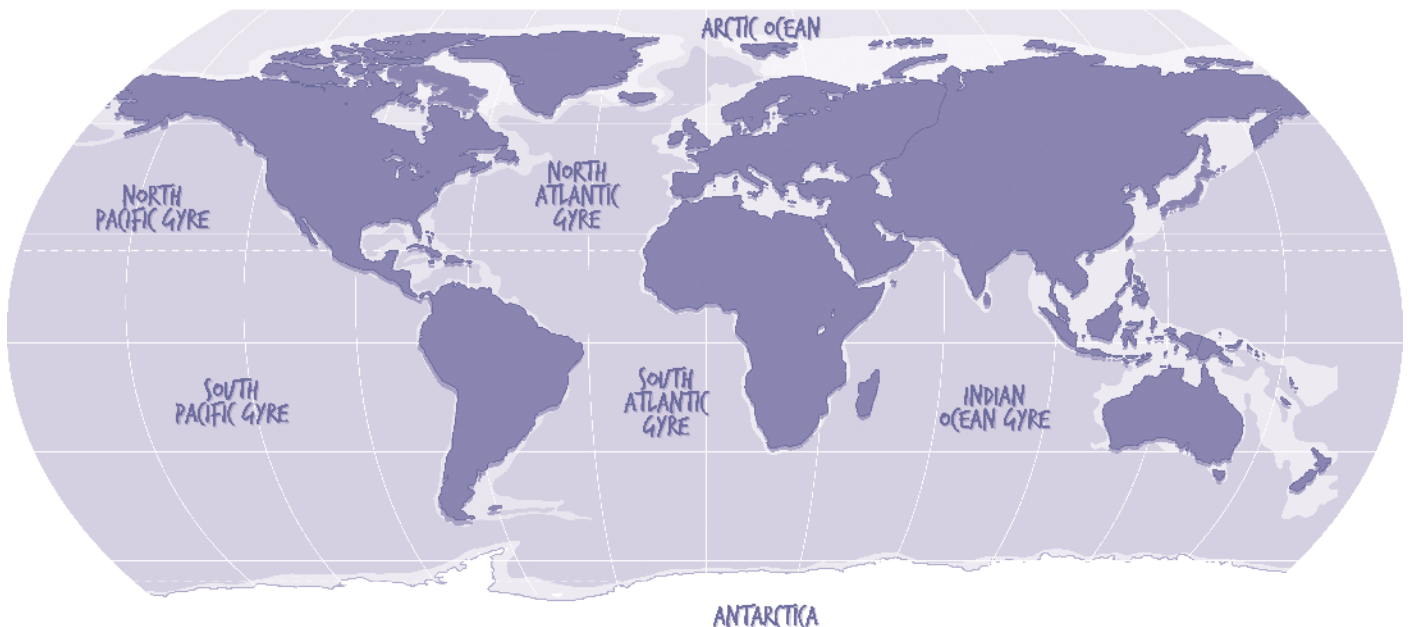
**B. Explore the real setting by watching videos of rhinoceros in the wild.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miSL3yX28fc>

What food do they eat? Where do they find water?

## 6. WHERE DOES GENDA COME FROM?

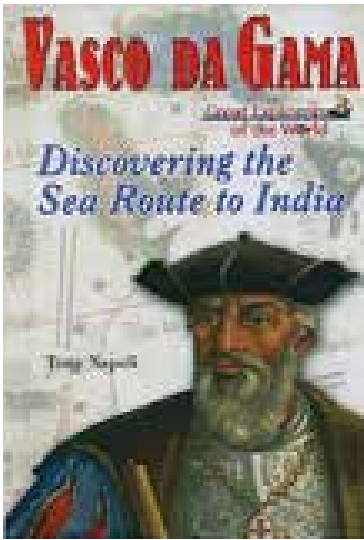
In the story, Beatrix looks at a terrestrial globe to see where unicorns come from. Terrestrial globes are maps that are made round, like the shape of the earth. Here’s a blank map. Can you find where Genda came from and where she travelled to?



Find the following places and show them on the map. Draw arrows to show Genda’s journey from India to Portugal (you might need an Atlas to help you).

*India, The city of Goa, The Indian Ocean, Africa, The Atlantic Ocean, Cape Point (Genda went around the tip of Africa but didn’t stop), Portugal, The city of Lisbon.*

## 7. FIND OUT ABOUT THE SAILOR (ALSO CALLED A NAVIGATOR), VASCO DA GAMA



Genda, the rhinoceros, travelled from Goa in India across two oceans to Portugal in the year 1515 (508 years ago). This was an amazing journey because only 17 years before Genda arrived, a navigator from Lisbon in Portugal, became the very FIRST person from Europe to sail around the point of Africa all the way from Lisbon to Goa. His boat was called the Sao Gabriel. Can you write a few words about him? Maybe even imagine what he had to take onboard with him. Can you draw him? Don't forget his puffy pants and that he would have worn a cap very different to a modern sailor's cap.

## 8. HOW DID THEY TRAVEL?

The ships were very small in those days, but they crossed wild and stormy oceans. What did the ships look like? They had a special name. Can you draw one?

Have a look at how the illustrator, Simona Mulazzani, has drawn the one in the story. Don't forget to draw flags on the masts like she has. Ships usually fly the flag of their country. Genda's ship would have had Portuguese flags.



## 9. WHAT DID THE QUEEN AND KING OF PORTUGAL LOOK LIKE?

In the book, the illustrator, Simona Mulazzani shows King Manuel I and Queen Maria of Aragon dressed in fine clothes. Look at portraits of queens and kings from this time.

Can you draw and use collage and paint to create portraits to hang in their palace?

The portraits can be self-portraits of yourselves.

Draw a head shape, add a neck and ears then mix paint to match your own skin tone. Use mirrors to see what you look like, and when the paint is dry use oil pastels to create eyes, a nose and mouth. Don't forget eyelashes and eyebrows and a hairstyle.

Now for some fun. Create crowns from flat cardboard stuck with shapes to look like jewels and spray gold. Use pattern paper for dresses or cloaks and glue in place. Use folded tissue paper or paper doilies to make collars. Then add jewels and necklaces.

Now hold your portraits high and bow and curtsy to each other.



(note to teachers... this might take a few lessons... done in stages)



## 10. CREATE YOUR OWN JUNGLE, FOR GENDA

Draw the shape of a Genda on the back of grey-patterned paper that you have prepared by rubbing crayon against textures. Cut out the shape of a rhino, then paste it onto a sheet of dark paper. Don't forget a horn. Don't worry about legs... they will be covered by your jungle. Cut out leaf shapes as well flowers and birds and butterflies from painted paper. Try drawing some patterns on the leaves with crayons. Paste leaves around the rhino to create your own jungle. Add crayon patterns for creepers.

(The jungle below was made by a 10 year old boy.)

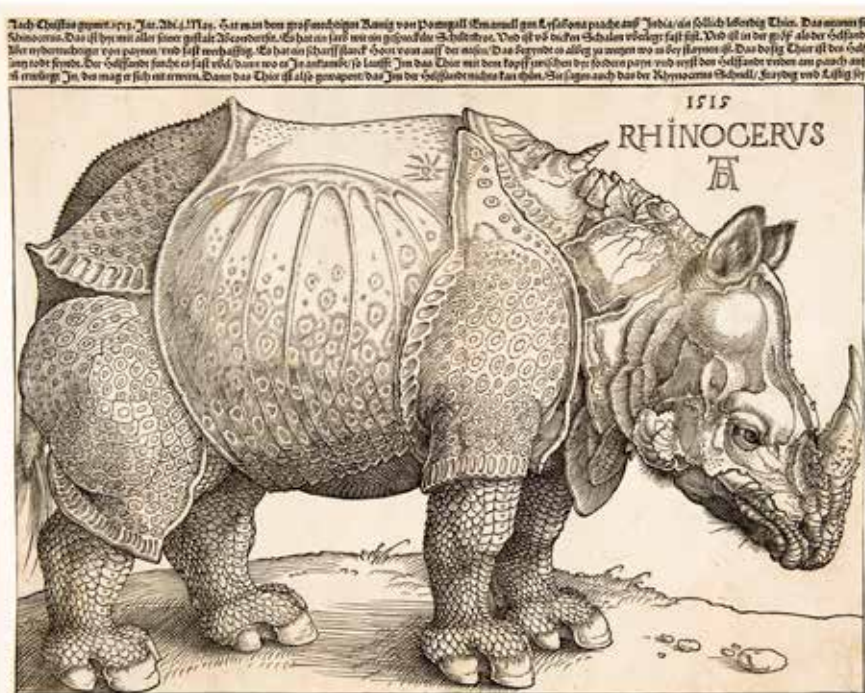


## 11. HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT RHINOS?

- A. What is a group of rhinos called?
- B. What are baby rhinos called?
- C. Do rhinos have claws or toes?
- D. Are they herbivores or carnivores?
- E. Do you know what the word rhinoceros meant in early Greek?
- F. How many species of rhino are there?
- G. Which ones are most endangered?
- H. What are the 2 species of African rhino?
- I. Are white rhinos truly white?
- J. Do you know why they are called white rhinos?
- K. How many horns did Genda have? (Remember he came from India not Africa)

## 12. MAKE YOUR OWN RHINO PRINT

The artist Albrecht Dürer made his rhinoceros by cutting a design into wood and inking the wood, then printing it.



Make your own rhinoceros print by drawing with a blunt pencil into a piece of Styrofoam. Don't forget the horn and some ears and texture on the body.

Then use a sponge roller (from a hardware or craft shop) to roll water-based craft paint over the design. Or dab paint onto the surface with a flat kitchen sponge. Be careful not to get paint in the grooves. If you do, use a toothpick or a matchstick to remove.

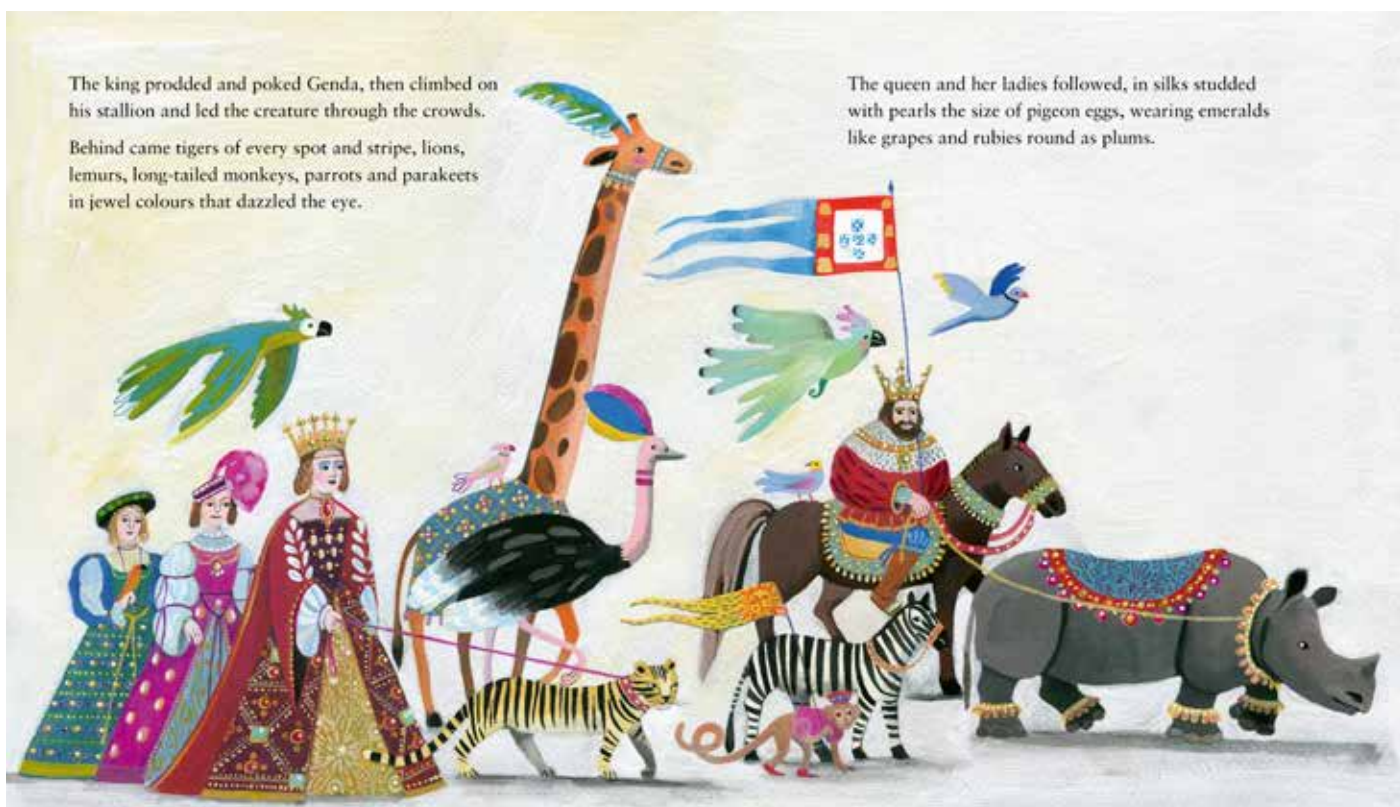
Take clean paper and press this down evenly over the inked Styrofoam design. There is your print! The lines and texture you've drawn will appear white, without paint. This is called a negative print. Your rhino will face the opposite direction.



## 13. MAKE A MINATURE ROYAL PARADE IN A CONGENTINA BOOK

In the 16th century, when a king wanted to show his people how wealthy and powerful he was, there was no Social Media to help. So, kings held Grand Parades to show off their importance. King Manuel I, in our story, was extremely powerful. His sailors had discovered the sea route to Brazil in South America and the route to India around the tip of Africa. They brought back wonderful jewels and fabrics and exotic animals that had never been seen before in Europe.

Look at the Parade in our story. See how elaborate the Royal costumes were, and how many wild animals took part. Even today, we have parades to celebrate things... think about the King Charles's Coronation and the gold carriages and horses.



## How to make a concertina book

1. Take a strip of paper and fold it into a zig zag book. I used Kgadi paper.
2. Each page is for a different animal.
3. Don't forget to put your rhinoceros in the front.
4. And use the back of your book as well.
5. You can get help with the shape of your animals, by using plastic animals and putting them on a piece of paper in the sunlight or use a torch to make shadows. Then trace around the shadow and colour the animals.

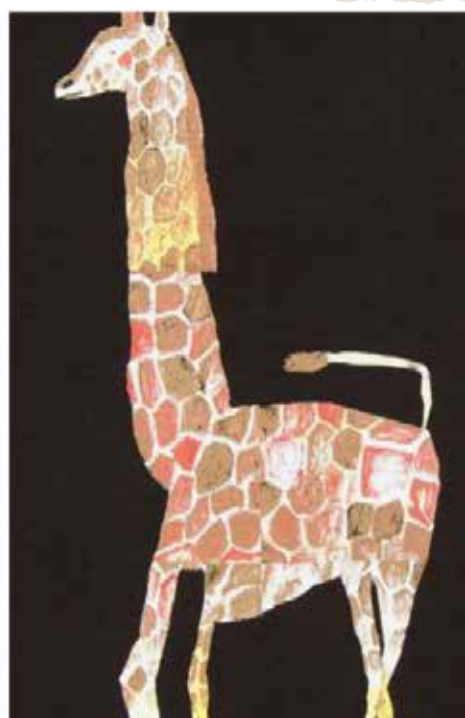
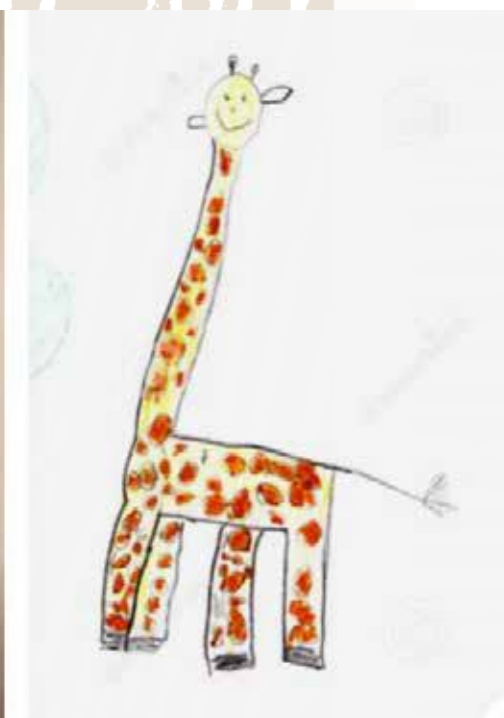


## 14. MAKE A HUGE ROYAL PARADE FRIEZE THAT LEADS AROUND YOUR SCHOOL THROUGH ALL THE PASSAGES OR AROUND THE HALL

Look at the parade illustrations in the story again. Using the idea of TAKE ONE BOOK, use THE MOST FAMOUS RHINOCEROS to create a huge Parade frieze, in your school. It might be fun to do this with a few classes taking part. The frieze could be painted or done in collage, or in a combination of both. (see examples below of paint, drawing and collage)

Different classes could decide to do different topics.

1. People – royalty, trumpet players, drummers, flag bearers.
2. Some class might do only exotic birds from Brazil.
3. Ostriches might be fun with all their feathers.
4. Elephants... but only one rhinoceros.
5. Other animals like camels, giraffes, zebras.
6. Wilder animals like tigers, leopards, lions, cheetahs.



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