

LEARN AT CHESTER ZOO

L.O: To compare and contrast the life cycle of mammals, amphibians, birds and insects.

LIFE CYCLE OF A RHINOCEROS HORNBILL

Photocopy on to card. Cut out the individual cards with images and annotations. Keep together as a set of cards to create a life cycle.



NEST

Rhinoceros hornbills usually pair for life. The couples choose a tree hollow or cavity to build the nest. The entrance is sealed, leaving a slit. The female incubates the egg in the cavity for 50 days. The male brings food to the nest and the female throws out uneaten food and poop, keeping the nest clean.



HATCHLING/ NESTLING

The eggs are incubated for 37 to 47 days before they hatch. After the chicks hatch, the female hornbills remain trapped inside the nest. The female and the chicks are totally dependent on the male for food.



NESTLING

3 months or 90 days after the chicks hatch, the female breaks out of the nest. The chicks reseal the entrance and are given food by their parent for the next 3 months.



CHICKS FLEDGE

The chicks fledge 86 to 97 days after the eggs are laid. They will have broken the nesting hole to fly free.



THE ADULT

Hornbills have a large wing span with white feathers for their tail. They can grow to be about 127 cm long and weigh about 3Kg. The male birds have an orange or red ring around their eyes; the female ring is white.



RHINOCEROS HORNBILLS (NEAR THREATENED)

Along with the issue of deforestation (e.g. for unsustainable palm oil production) resulting in habitat loss, these birds are hunted as food. Ornaments are also made out of their casques and feathers.