

MOTHER MELANIA'S MONTHLY MISSIVE - February 2025

A not entirely random mix of reflections on life, coloring pages, thoughts about kids' books & updates on Mother Melania's books

Today's Reflection - Some Critters Never Learn!

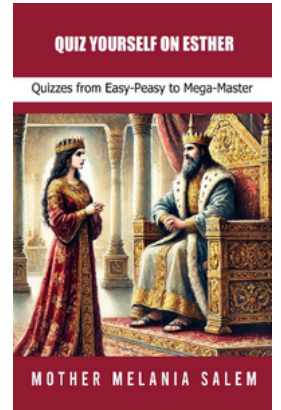
In "How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin," a bad-tempered - but smooth-skinned - rhinoceros steals and eats a magnificent cake made by the Parsee who lives alone on their island. In revenge, the Parsee dumps cake crumbs into the rhinoceros' skin (which he had taken off to go bathing, of course!). So, the cake-thieving rhinoceros is tormented by cake crumbs in his skin. This leaves him with forever wrinkly and extremely itchy skin and a VERY bad temper.

What might have happened, though, if the rhinoceros repented and asked the Parsee's forgiveness? Maybe the Parsee would have helped him get the crumbs out. Maybe they would have become friends. Maybe the Parsee would have taught the rhinoceros to make magnificent cakes. And maybe the rhinoceros would teach the Parsee a thing or two also! We'll never know, though, because the rhinoceros didn't take the opportunity to learn a bit of humility.

So, next time we suffer the consequences of our own bad actions, let's try to be a LITTLE more humble than the rhinoceros. Who knows? We may even make a friend out of an enemy. It's worth trying!

Mother Melania's Book Update

Quiz Yourself on the Book of Esther is now available as a Kindle book through the end of January for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$4.00.



Classic Kids' Tales: How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin

On an uninhabited island, a Parsee lives all alone. He bakes a marvelous cake, which is eaten by a very rude rhinoceros. In revenge, the Parsee gathers up cake crumbs and puts them in the rhinoceros' skin. This puts a wrinkle in the situation - and a LOT of wrinkles in the rhinoceros' skin! What happens next? Join us and find out!

For a free copy of *How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin*, click [here](#).

What's in the Back Pages?

- *How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin* worksheets
- Scripture verse coloring page



HOW THE RHINOCEROS GOT HIS SKIN - Discussion Questions

- Who are the main characters? What do we learn about them in the beginning of the story?
 - A Parsee (Persian)
 - he is on the beach of an uninhabited island near the Red Sea
 - his only possessions are a hat that reflected the rays of the sun , a knife, and a cooking-stove (that only he was allowed to touch)
 - he makes a beautiful, large cake
 - A rhinoceros
 - he comes from the Altogether Uninhabited Interior of the island to the beach
 - he never had any manners
 - at first, his skin fit him closely (no folds like a real rhinoceros has)
- What does the rhinoceros do that angered the Parsee?
 - he scares the Parsee, who climbs a tree to get away
 - then, he knocks over the Parsee's stove, eats his cake, and goes back to the interior
- What happens five weeks later that sets up the rest of the story?
 - It gets so hot that everybody takes off their clothes
 - the rhinoceros goes to the beach, takes off his skin and bathes in the water
- How does the Parsee get revenge on the rhinoceros?
 - He finds the rhinoceros' skin and brushes a bunch of cake crumbs into it
 - So, the rhinoceros kept rubbing himself so much that his skin got very baggy, but he could never get the crumbs out, which is why he's always in a bad temper now
- What does the Parsee do at the end of the story? Why do you think he does this?
 - He comes down from his tree, wearing his hat, takes his stove and goes away
 - Maybe he goes away so that the rhinoceros doesn't hurt or kill him
- Are the rhinoceros and Parsee any different at the end of the story than at the beginning?
 - The Parsee's personality doesn't seem to have changed
 - The rhinoceros now has lots of folds in his skin, now, he not only has bad manners, but a really bad temper, too
- How is the poem related to the story?
 - It's talking about the island and uses a lot of the same place names
- What lessons do we learn from this story?
 - If we are rude and unkind to others, sooner or later, we will face consequences for it
- What did you think was silly in this story? Funny? Real? Not real?
 - Answers will vary

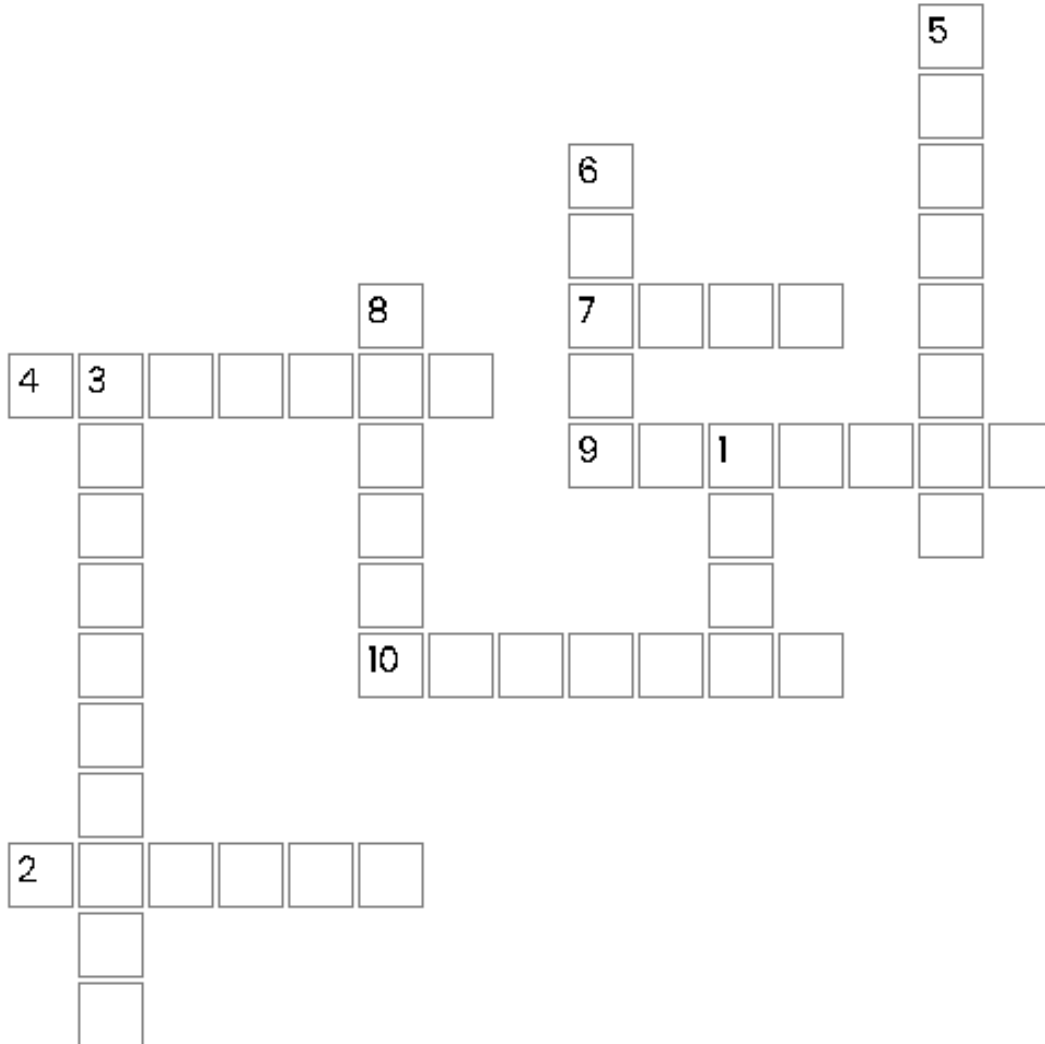
HOW THE RHINOCEROS GOT HIS SKIN - Vocabulary

- 1. Altogether - Completely or totally**
- 2. Comestible - Something you can eat**
- 3. Currant - A small, sweet fruit like a tiny raisin.**
- 4. Desolate - Empty; with few or no animals or plants living there**
- 5. Dreadful - Really bad or scary**
- 6. Equinox - When day and night are the same length**
- 7. Interior - The inside of something**
- 8. Manners - The way we act and talk to other people, especially when we behave well**
- 9. Meadow - A grassy field with flowers**
- 10. Oriental - From the East; related to countries in Asia**
- 11. Proceed - To keep going or move forward**
- 12. Promontory - A high piece of land sticking out into water**
- 13. Relate - To tell or explain something**
- 14. Sentimental - Feeling emotional about something special**
- 15. Shore - Where water meets the land**
- 16. Spoil - To ruin or make something bad.**
- 17. Temper: How someone feels, like being angry or calm**
- 18. Uninhabited - Having nobody living there**
- 19. Upland - High land, usually above rivers or valleys**
- 20. Upset: To turn over; To make somebody feel sad, angry, or worried**

HOW THE RHINOCEROS GOT HIS SKIN - Matching

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Altogether | a. Really bad or scary |
| 2. Comestible | b. To keep going or move forward |
| 3. Currant | c. Where water meets the land |
| 4. Desolate | d. Completely or totally |
| 5. Dreadful | e. Having nobody living there |
| 6. Equinox | f. The inside of something |
| 7. Interior | g. To turn over; To make somebody feel sad, angry, or worried |
| 8. Manners | h. To tell or explain something |
| 9. Meadow | i. A small, sweet fruit like a tiny raisin |
| 10. Oriental | j. When day and night are the same length |
| 11. Proceed | k. From the East; related to countries in Asia |
| 12. Promontory | l. Something you can eat |
| 13. Relate | m. High land, usually above rivers or valleys |
| 14. Sentimental | n. Feeling emotional about something special |
| 15. Shore | o. How someone feels, like being angry or calm |
| 16. Spoil | p. Empty; with few or no animals or plants living there |
| 17. Temper | q. The way we act and talk to other people, especially when we behave well |
| 18. Uninhabited | r. A high piece of land sticking out into water |
| 19. Upland | s. To ruin or make something bad. |
| 20. Upset | t. A grassy field with flowers |

HOW THE RHINOCEROS GOT HIS SKIN - Crossword



Across

- [2] The Parsee lived on an uninhabited island on the _____ of the Red Sea.
- [4] The rhinoceros has never had any _____.
- [7] The rhinoceros took off his _____ to bathe in the water during a heatwave.
- [9] The cake crumbs in the rhinoceros' skin _____ him.
- [10] Not being able to get rid of the cake crumbs _____ the rhinoceros' temper.

Down

- [1] The Parsee made a _____ that was two feet across and three feet thick.
- [3] The rhinoceros lived in the _____ Uninhabited Interior.
- [5] In the beginning, the rhinoceros' skin had no _____.
- [6] The rhinoceros _____ the Parsee's oil-stove, then ate his cake.
- [8] The Parsee filled the rhinoceros' skin full of cake _____.

HOW THE RHINOCEROS GOT HIS SKIN - Word Search

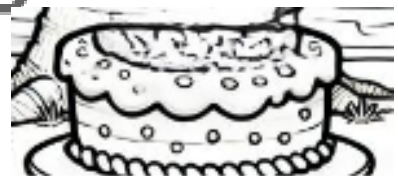
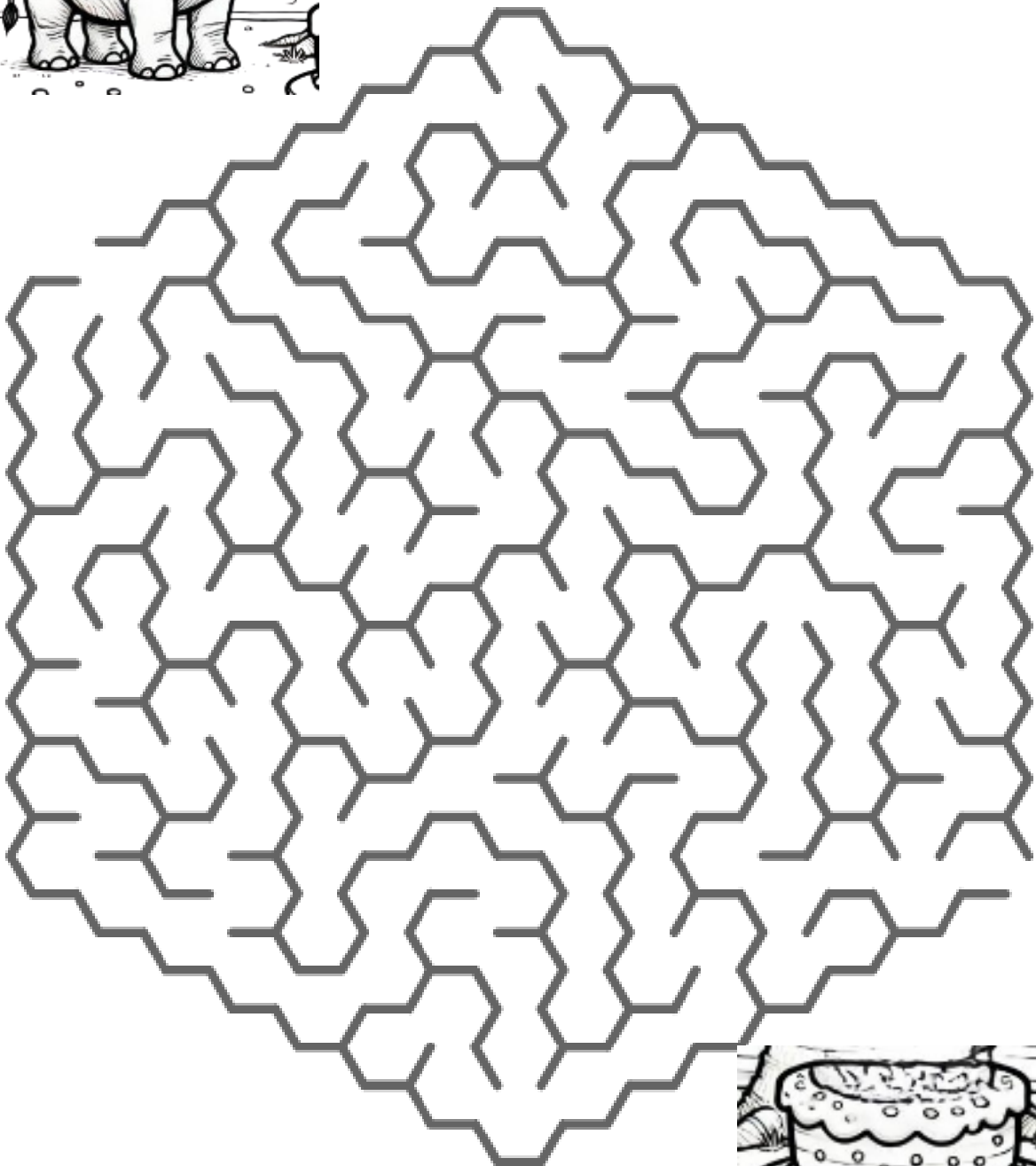
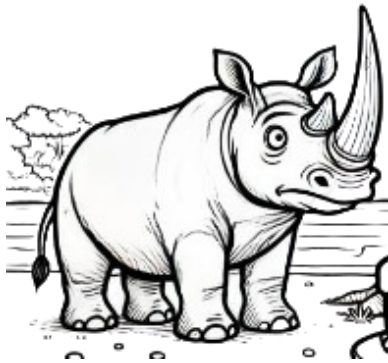


beach
comestible
crumbs
currants
dreadful
equinox
flour
horn
island
knife

manners
oriental
rays
reflected
rhinoceros
sentimental
smile
stove
temper
water

HOW THE RHINOCEROS GOT HIS SKIN - Maze

Help the Rhinoceros Find the Cake



HOW THE RHINOCEROS GOT HIS SKIN - Scramble

AKEC

DOLAETSE

LDOF

NHOR

FIENK

LPMA

PSERAE

STCRCAH

OSVET

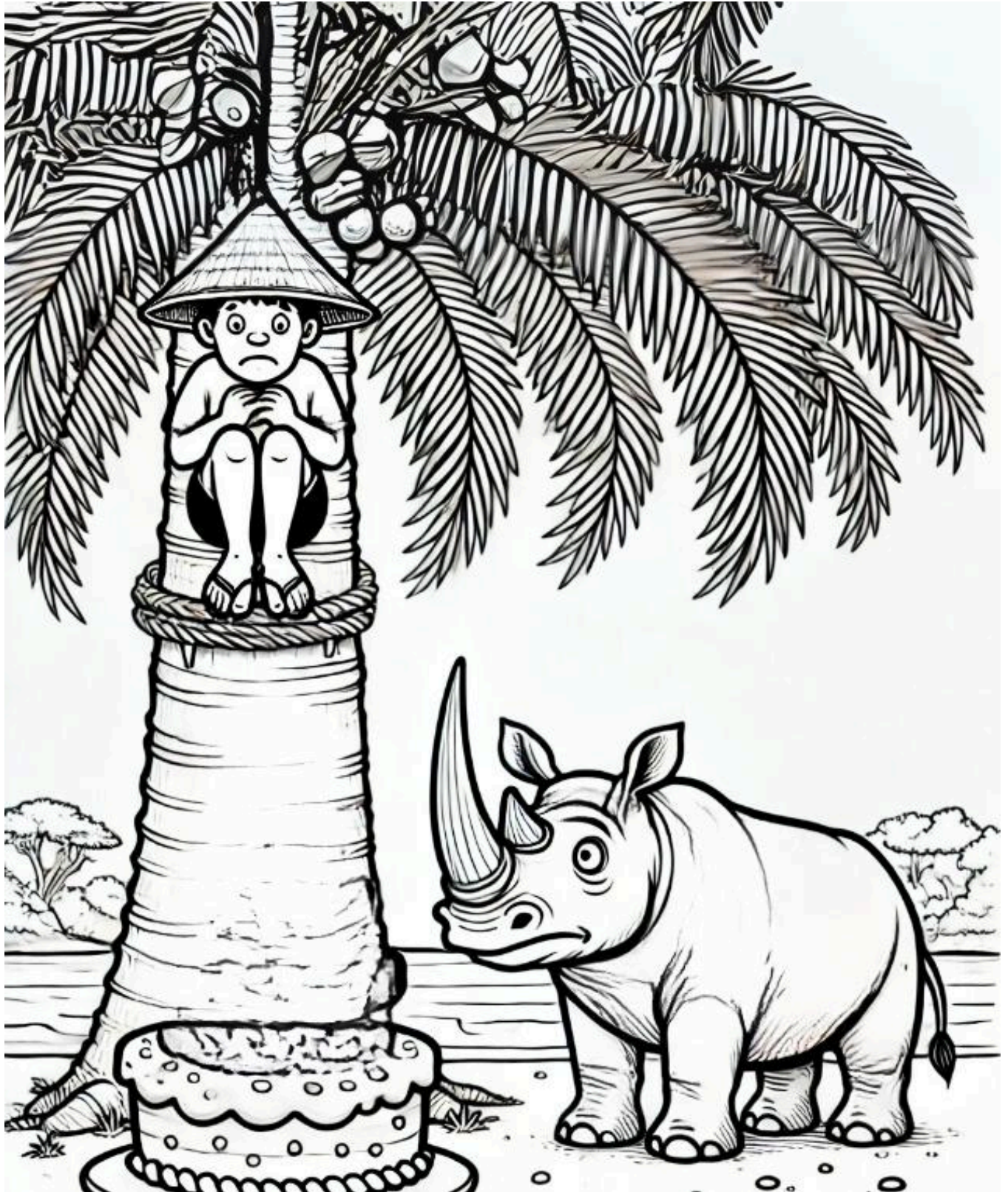
TMEEPR

UBTENINIHAD

UANLPD

HOW THE RHINOCEROS GOT HIS SKIN

- Coloring Page



HOW THE RHINOCEROS GOT HIS SKIN

- Coloring Page

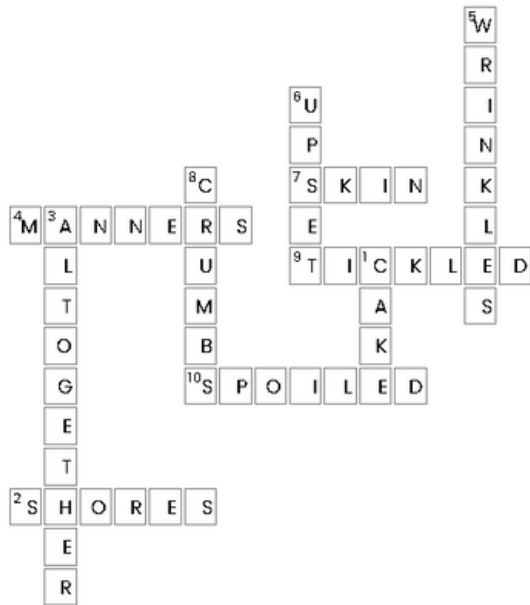


SOLUTIONS - HOW THE RHINOCEROS GOT HIS SKIN

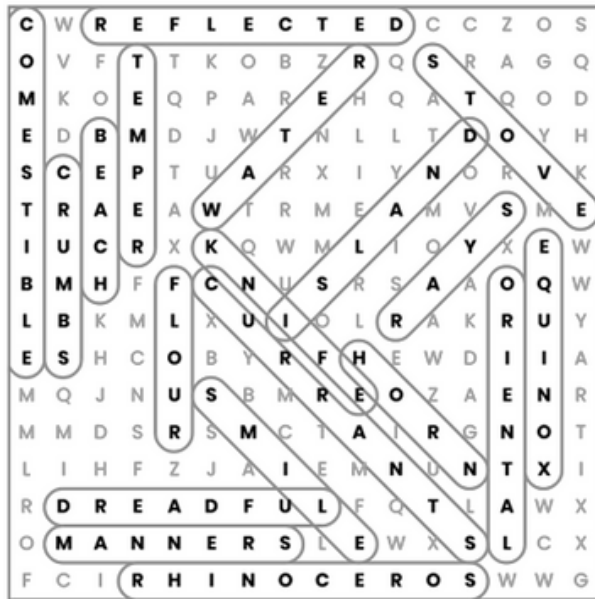
Matching

1-d, 2-l, 3-i, 4-p, 5-a, 6-j, 7-f, 8-q, 9-t, 10-k
 11-b, 12-r, 13-h, 14-n, 15-c, 16-s, 17-o, 18-e, 19-m, 20-g

Crossword



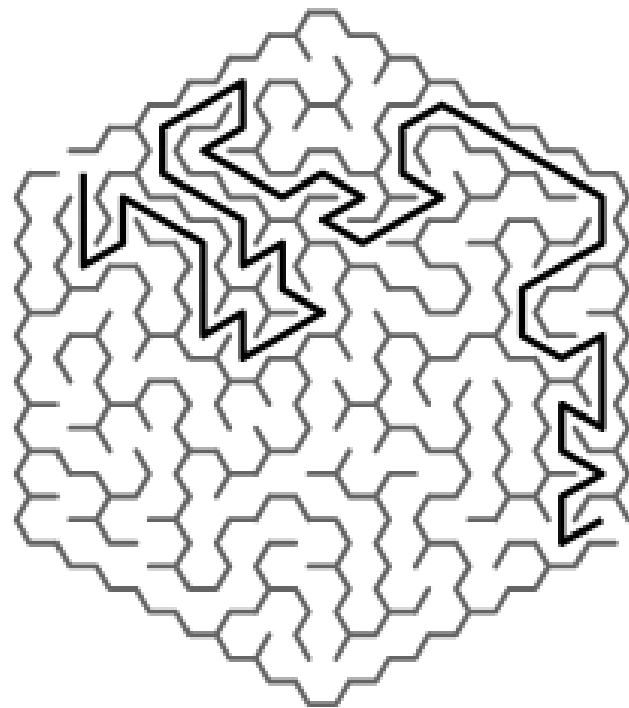
Word Search



Scramble

- AKEC
- DOLAETSE
- LDOF
- NHOR
- FIENK
- LPMA
- PSERAE
- STCRCAH
- OSVET
- TMEEPR
- UBTENINIHAD
- UANLPD

Maze



The merciful man doeth good to his own soul:
but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.

Proverbs 11:17



The rhinoceros was mean to the Parsee and ended up with itchy skin and a bad temper for the rest of his life. Have you ever been mean to somebody? If you have, did you ask forgiveness and try to make up for your bad behavior?