

# Tales from Africa

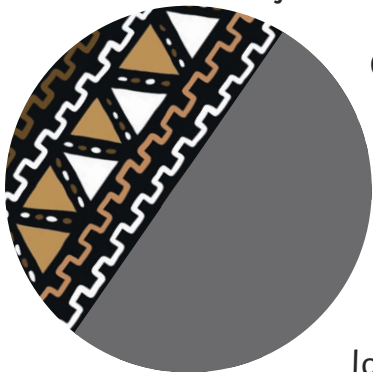
## Why the Rhino Has Grey Skin

Long ago, when the world was new, Africa was a hot place to be.

In the summer, the storms would bring great big drops of rain that would fill the waterholes, giving all the animals plenty to drink. The grass would grow green and as tall as the backs of the impala. There would also be lots of lovely, squishy mud to lie in. Summer was a relaxing time for all the animals out on the savannahs of Africa, especially Razo Rhino. Razo was the savannah's best and bravest firefighter. In summer, when there was plenty of water around, there were never any fires to put out so Razo spent his day lying in the squishy mud. He would spread the cool mud all over his beautiful, shiny, brown skin and watch the world go by.



When winter came to Africa, there would be no rain for months. The waterholes would dry up and the grass of the savannah would turn dry and brown. But even though it was winter, the sun kept on burning down on the savannah, often starting fires in the long, dry grass. So, winter was a tough time for Razo. He spent a lot of his days and nights out on the savannah, stamping out the fires and keeping everyone safe.



One year, the rains stopped before the end of summer and the savannah was hot and dry before winter even came. As the sun blazed down on the savannah, fires started springing up. Razo found himself having to work even harder than usual. He would be running all over the savannah, day and night, trampling out the fires. Before long, the ash from the fires started to stick to his beautiful, brown, shiny skin; coating him in a thick layer of dull, grey ash. But Razo was so busy saving the other animals from the fire that he didn't even notice that his beautiful, brown skin had changed into a dull, grey color.

Eventually, the winter ended with a large thunderstorm that brought cool drops of rain to the savannah. Finally, Razo had a chance to rest and have a well-deserved bath but he soon discovered that the dull, grey ash had been on his skin for so long that it had stained his skin forever.

