

# Mr Gumpy's Rhino

Author: John Burningham

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Children's Publishers UK

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## Synopsis

Mr Gumpy is off on an adventure! This time he's rescuing a rhino who's lost its parents... But growing rhinos needs lots of food. Will Charlie the rhino and Mr Gumpy manage to make a happy home together?

A madcap adventure for children,



*all photos credit: John Burningham*

## Author Bio

**John Burningham (27 April 1936 – 4 January 2019)**

John Burningham studied illustration and graphic design at the Central School of Art, graduating with distinction in 1959. Many illustration commissions followed including iconic posters for London Transport, before the publication of *Borka: the Adventures of a Goose with No Feathers*, John's first book for children (Cape, 1963) which won the prestigious Kate Greenaway Medal for illustration and heralded the beginning of an extraordinary career.

John Burningham has since written and illustrated over thirty picture books, that have been translated and distributed all over the world. These feature his classic and much loved children's books including *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, by Ian Fleming (Jonathan Cape, 1964); *Mr Gumpy's Outing* (Jonathan Cape, 1970) also awarded the Kate Greenaway Medal; *Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne (Jonathan Cape, 1972); *The Shopping Basket* (Random House, 1980); *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame (Penguin/Puffin, 1983); *Granpa* (Jonathan Cape, 1984) later made into an animated film and *Oi! Get off our Train* (Jonathan Cape, 1989) and various books for adults *England* (Jonathan Cape, 1992); *France* (Jonathan Cape, 1998); *The Time of Your Life* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2002) and *When We Were Young* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2004).

John was married to the illustrator, Helen Oxenbury.

They have three children, three grandchildren and a dog named Miles.



# Curriculum Links

## Geography Year 4

- using geographical tools (for example, a globe, a wall map or digital application such as Google Earth) to identify the major countries of Africa and South America and their relative location
- using a globe to investigate the Great Circle routes of aeroplane travel between Australia and the major countries of Africa and South America
- researching the main types of natural vegetation and native animals in a climate zone in Australia, and comparing them with those found in a similar climate in Africa or South America
- using a printed or electronic atlas to identify the main characteristics of the continents of Africa and South America (for example, topographic features, environments, cities)

## English: Foundation - Year 4

Students engage with a variety of texts for enjoyment. They listen to, read and view spoken, written and multimodal texts in which the primary purpose is to entertain, as well as some texts designed to inform.

## Pre Reading Questions:

Look at the front cover of the book.

Read the title together.

Identify the author.

Do you recognise that name, can you think of any other books he has written.

Do you recognise the character of Mr Gumpy?

What do you think the story will be about?

Read the blurb at the back of the book. What do you feel about it? What kind of things are you now expecting to see inside the book? What questions do you have?

## African Animals

Mr Gumpy is travelling in Africa when he finds the baby rhinoceros.

Rhino's only live in some parts of Africa.

On a map of Africa, look at the different countries where you might see a rhino.

*The African rhino is divided into two species, the black rhino and the white rhino. White rhinos mainly live in South Africa, but they have also been reintroduced to Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. Southern white rhinos have been introduced to Kenya, Zambia, and Cote d'Ivoire. The majority of the black rhino population—98%—is concentrated in four countries: South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Kenya. South Africa houses 40% of the total black rhino population. There are some black rhinos in the region spread between Cameroon and Kenya.*

Source: <https://www.awf.org/wildlife-conservation/rhinoceros>

<https://www.google.com/maps/@5.4567332,20.6445915,3.13z>

In the story we also see some other African animals:

Elephants

Camels

Find out what other animals live in Africa, specifically in the countries where Mr Gumpy may have travelled.

*There is also a map of Africa on the last page of these notes that can be used if you want this to be an individual activity.*

## Mr Gumpy's Journey

On his journey, My Gumpy meets some Bedouins. Bedouins are a group of nomadic people who live in the deserts in Northern Africa. This meeting gives us an idea of the direction Mr Gumpy may have travelled.

Using the map again, follow the journey that Mr Gumpy may have travelled, from South Africa to North Africa, ending in Casablanca, as that is where he gets on the boat.

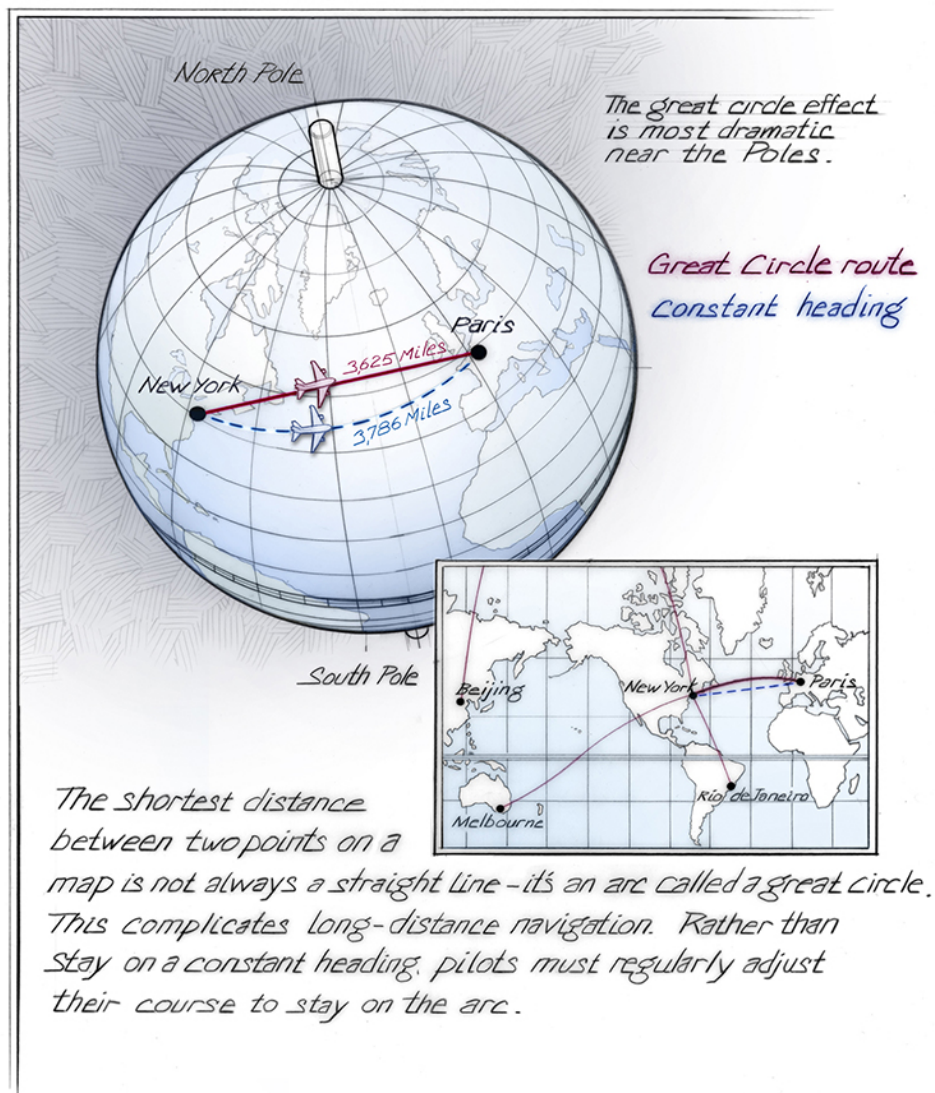
Mr Gumpy lives in England. Follow the journey Mr Gumpy would take on the boat from Casablanca to England.

## Great Circle Route

Once you have mapped this journey. Find Australia on the map and use a globe to investigate the Great Circle routes of aeroplane travel between Australia and the major countries of Africa

<https://timeandnavigation.si.edu/multimedia-asset/great-circle-route>

### GREAT CIRCLE





# Africa

