

## WE NEED TO STOP POACHING

By Elliana Robb

Did you know that 100,000,000 sharks die a year for shark fin soup and that many are poached illegally? I strongly believe that we need to stop poaching because a lot of animals are dying, it disrupts the food chain, and finally animals could go extinct. This matters to me because tons of animals die a year and it makes me feel sad that animals are losing their lives because people kill them.

The first reason why we need to stop poaching is because every day rhinos die from being poached in South Africa. When I was at Kruger Park we saw a baby rhino sitting next to a dead mommy rhino and the rangers think that the mommy rhino got poached. But we don't know if they used a gun or arrow. This made me realize how sad it was that animals are dying from poaching.

Another reason we need to stop poaching is because it disrupts the food chain. For example, food chains are an animal's food type. Different animals eat different food. Some animals eat meat, while others eat plants. If all animals ate the same thing there will be no more left of that food or animal. This made me realize that disrupting the food chain by taking out an animal, means that animals will fight over food and there will be less animals to feed others in the ecosystem.

The final reason we need to stop poaching is because animals can become extinct. For example there are only 27,000 rhinos left in the wild. Some people think that this is a lot but up to 10 rhinos get killed every 6 hours across Africa and if you think about it in a month that is a lot of rhinos dying. This made me realize at this rate they will become extinct soon.

You might think that poaching is not important to you, but it is important to all of us because animals are dying and they need our help. In conclusion, I believe that poaching should stop because animals are dying, it is disrupting the food chain and animals are going extinct. We can all help change this by stop eating shark fin soup and not buying tusks and horns. Antlers are different because they are shed and the animal does not need to be killed. Are you ready to start saving animals?