

# All About Tigers

Tigers are the largest, heaviest and most powerful members of the cat family. Tiger ancestry can be traced back to around 2 million years ago, after fossil remains were found in China.

## Appearance

Famous around the world for their reddish-orange coats with dark stripes and a white belly, tigers possess sharp teeth and claws, which are used for hunting. They also have a long tail that is about half the length of their body, which they use for balance.

Some tigers have white fur with black stripes. These are known as white tigers and are extremely rare.

All tigers have a unique pattern of stripes on their fur, just like human fingerprints.

## Description

Adult tigers can weigh up to 360kg and grow up to 4 metres in length when measured from head to tail. Despite tigers often being big and heavy, they can reach speeds of up to 65 kilometres per hour when running at full speed. A tiger's roar is very loud and can be heard up to 2 miles away.

## Hunting and Diet

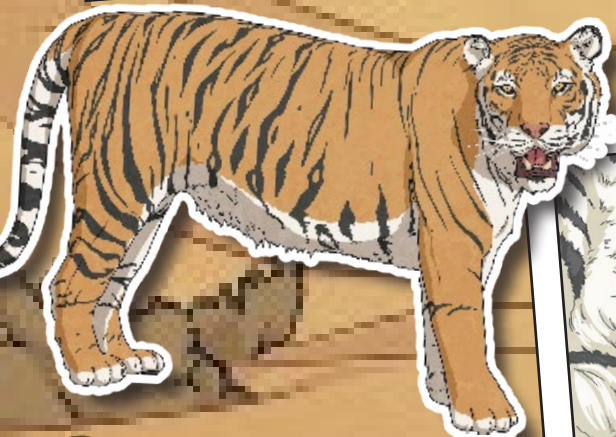
Tigers are carnivores that only eat meat. They mainly feed on large mammals, such as deer, buffalo and cattle. Tigers usually hunt at night and on their own. The stripes on tigers provide camouflage so they can quietly stalk their prey before getting close enough to pounce.

## Subspecies of Tiger

There are five subspecies of tigers: Amur tigers, Bengal tigers, Indochinese tigers, South China tigers and Sumatran tigers. Three subspecies are thought to be extinct: the Caspian, Bali and Javan.



**Sumatran Tigers**



## Threats

Tigers could be found throughout Asia less than 100 years ago. Sadly, hunting and habitat loss have put tigers at risk. As a result, the tiger population has been reduced to around 7 per cent of its former size.



**Amur Tiger Cubs**



## Behaviour

Baby tigers are called cubs and stay with their mother until they are about two years old, when they can hunt and kill prey for themselves. Adult tigers usually live on their own.

## Did You Know...?

Unlike many types of cats, tigers enjoy water and are good swimmers. They often cool off in pools or streams.

## Conservation

Many wildlife parks, zoos and national parks are working together to try and help tiger populations recover.

Tigers are a protected species and there are laws against hunting tigers and destroying their natural habitats.



# Questions

1. How do we know that tiger ancestry dates back around 2 million years ago? Tick one.

- ☐ some are still alive
- ☐ school tells us
- ☐ fossil remains were found in China
- ☐ reading old newspapers

2. How many subspecies of tiger are there? Tick one.

- ☐ 3
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 8
- ☐ 1

3. What do tigers eat? Tick one.

- ☐ large mammals
- ☐ grass
- ☐ other tigers
- ☐ small birds

4. Draw **three** lines and match each fact to the correct measurement.

Adult tigers can weigh up to...

4 metres

A tiger's roar can be heard up to this distance.

360kg

Adult tigers can measure \_\_\_\_\_ from head to tail.

2 miles

5. What are baby tigers called?

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6. Look at the section called **Appearance**.

Find and copy one word which tells us that each tiger is unlike any other in one aspect.

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7. **Tigers are a protected species...**

Why is this important? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. How do we know that tiger ancestry dates back around 2 million years ago? Tick one.

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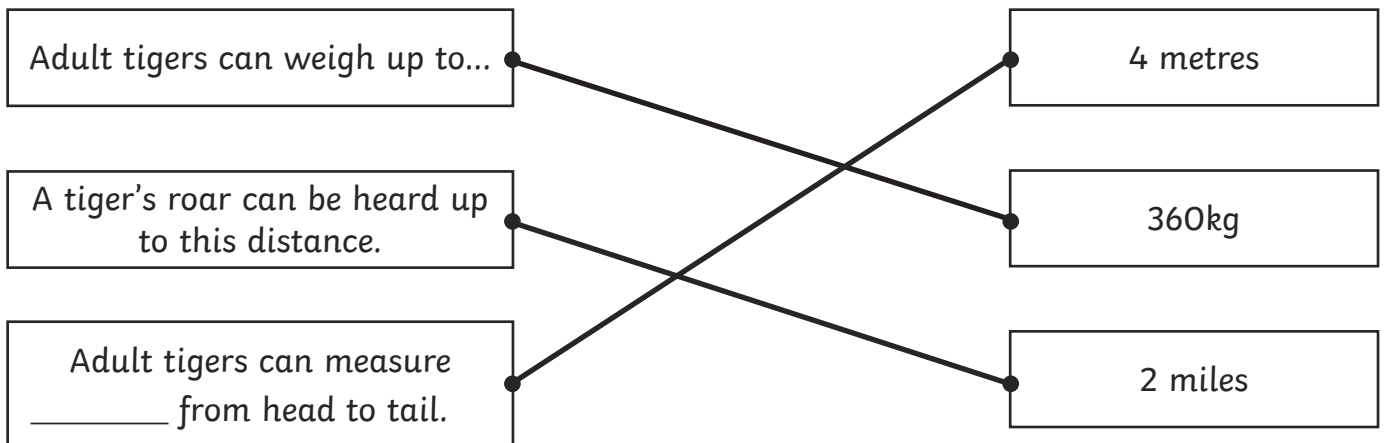
- ☐ 3
- ☒ **5**
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- ☐ 1

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A tiger's roar can be heard up to this distance.	360kg
Adult tigers can measure _____ from head to tail.	2 miles



5. What are baby tigers called?

**Baby tigers are called cubs.**

6. Look at the section called **Appearance**.

Find and copy one word which tells us that each tiger is unlike any other in one aspect.

**unique**

7. **Tigers are a protected species...**

Why is this important? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: It is important that tigers are protected, otherwise there is a danger that they will become extinct; we would lose a world famous and historically significant wild animal. Tigers are also a key link in their ecosystem; if they became extinct, then their prey species would become overpopulated.**

# All About Tigers

Tigers are the largest, heaviest and most powerful members of the cat family. Tiger ancestry can be traced back to approximately 2 million years ago, after fossil remains were found in China.

## Appearance

Famous around the world for their reddish-orange coats with dark stripes and a white belly, tigers possess sharp teeth and claws used for hunting. They also have a long tail that is about half the length of their body, which they use for balance.

Some tigers have white fur with black stripes. These white tigers are extremely rare.

Like human fingerprints, all tigers have a unique pattern of stripes on their fur.

## Description

Tigers can live to around 25 years old. Adult tigers can weigh up to 360kg and grow up to 4 metres in length when measured from head to tail.

Despite tigers often being big and heavy, they can reach speeds of up to 65 kilometres per hour when running at full speed.

Tigers are one of only four types of cats that can roar. Their roar is extremely loud and can be heard up to 2 miles away.

## Hunting and Diet

Tigers are carnivores that only eat meat. They mainly feed on large mammals, such as deer, buffalo and cattle. Tigers usually hunt at night and on their own. The stripes on tigers provide camouflage so they can quietly stalk their prey before getting close enough to pounce.



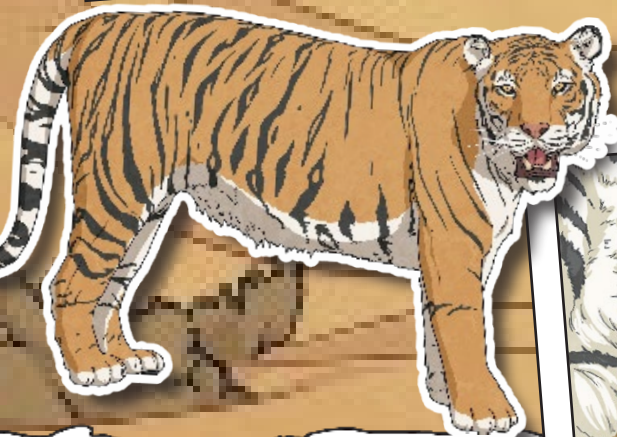
# Subspecies of Tiger

## All About Tigers

There are five subspecies of tigers: Amur tigers, Bengal tigers, Indochinese tigers, South China tigers and Sumatran tigers. Regrettably, three subspecies are thought to be extinct: Caspian, Bali and Javan.



**Sumatran Tigers**

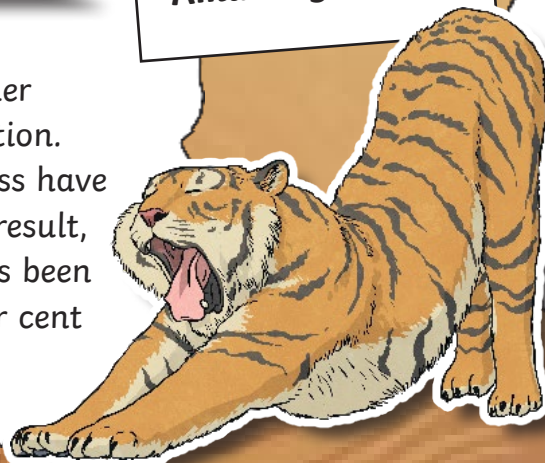


## Threats

Sadly, tigers are an endangered species under serious threat of extinction. Hunting and habitat loss have put tigers at risk. As a result, the tiger population has been reduced to around 7 per cent of its former size.



**Amur Tiger Cubs**



## Behaviour

Baby tigers are called cubs and stay with their mother until they are about two years old, when they can hunt and kill prey for themselves.

Adult tigers usually live on their own and protect the area where they live from other tigers. Often marking their territory with their urine, tigers will fight any threats to their area.

While spending most of their time on land, tigers are one of the very few cats that enjoy the water. In fact, they are good swimmers.

## Conservation

Numerous places around the world are working together to try and help population numbers of tigers recover. This includes wildlife parks, zoos and national parks.

Tigers are a protected species and there are laws against hunting tigers and destroying their natural habitats.



# Questions

1. How long can tigers live for? Tick one.

- ☐ 10 years
- ☐ 30 years
- ☐ 25 years
- ☐ 25 months

2. Why do tigers possess sharp teeth and claws? Tick one.

- ☐ to help them swim
- ☐ to balance
- ☐ to camouflage
- ☐ to help them hunt

3. Draw **three** lines and match each statement to the number that completes it.

number of tiger subspecies

7

How old are tigers when they hunt for themselves?

2

Tiger population has been reduced to around \_\_\_\_ per cent of its former size.

5

4. Look at the opening paragraph.

Find and copy one word which means 'not exact'.

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5. Which of these are listed as things tigers eat? Tick **two**.

- ☐ cattle
- ☐ insects
- ☐ lizards
- ☐ deer

6. List **two** facts the text gives about tigers.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

7. Why is it important for tigers to have camouflage?

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8. **Tigers are a protected species...**

Why is this important? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. How long can tigers live for? Tick one.

- ☐ 10 years
- ☐ 30 years
- ☒ **25 years**
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2. Why do tigers possess sharp teeth and claws? Tick one.

- ☐ to help them swim
- ☐ to balance
- ☐ to camouflage
- ☒ **to help them hunt**

3. Draw **three** lines and match each statement to the number that completes it.

number of tiger subspecies	7
How old are tigers when they hunt for themselves?	2
Tiger population has been reduced to around ____ per cent of its former size.	5

4. Look at the opening paragraph.

Find and copy one word which means 'not exact'.

**approximately**

5. Which of these are listed as things tigers eat? Tick **two**.

- ☒ **cattle**
- ☐ insects
- ☐ lizards
- ☒ **deer**



6. List **two** facts the text gives about tigers.

**Pupils' own responses, such as:**

- **Tigers can weigh up to 360kg.**
- **Tigers are carnivores.**

7. Why is it important for tigers to have camouflage?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think it is important for tigers to have camouflage so that they can stalk their prey without being seen. Tigers attack large mammals so they must use an element of surprise to ensure they can eat.**

8. **Tigers are a protected species...**

Why is this important? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: It is important that tigers are protected, otherwise there is a danger that they will become extinct; we would lose a world famous and historically significant wild animal. Tigers are also a key link in their ecosystem; if they became extinct, then their prey species would become overpopulated.**

# All About Tigers

Tigers are the largest, heaviest and most powerful members of the cat family. Tiger ancestry can be traced back to approximately 2 million years ago, after fossil remains were found in China.



## Appearance

Famous around the world for their reddish-orange coat and dark stripes with a white belly, tigers possess a long tail that is almost half the length of their body. This is used for balance.

Some tigers have white fur with black stripes; however, these white tigers are extremely rare.

Like human fingerprints, all tigers have a unique pattern of stripes on their fur.

## Description

Tigers can live to around 25 years old. Adult tigers can weigh up to 360kg and can measure up to 4 metres in length from head to tail.

Despite their cumbersome size, tigers can reach speeds of up to 65 kilometres per hour when sprinting and can leap up to 10 metres in one jump.

Tigers are one of only four types of cats that can roar. Their roar is exceptionally loud and can be heard up to 2 miles away.

## Hunting and Diet

Tigers are carnivores – they only eat meat. They mainly feed on large mammals, such as deer, buffalo and cattle. Tigers usually hunt at night and on their own.

Stripes help them blend in with the vertical patterns of light and shadow in the tall grass. Using this camouflage, they quietly pursue their unsuspecting prey until they get close enough to pounce. Their razor-sharp teeth and powerful claws help pull an animal off its feet and hold it down, preventing it from escaping.

It may take days for a tiger to finish eating; therefore, it covers the remains of its kill with leaves and dirt or drags it into bushes. This hides the carcass from scavengers until the tiger can come back to feed some more.



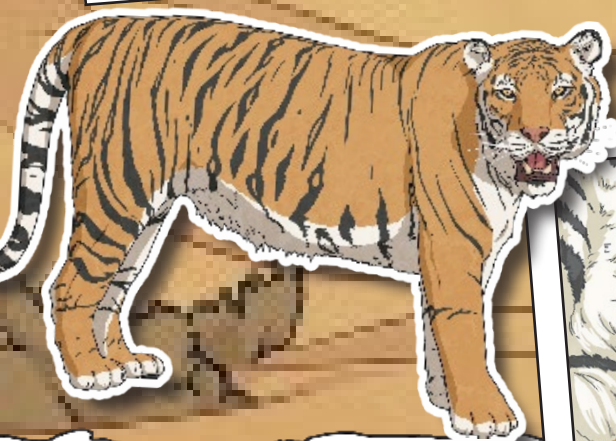
# Subspecies of Tiger

## All About Tigers

There are five subspecies of tiger: Amur tiger, Bengal tiger, Indochinese tiger, South China tiger and Sumatran tiger. Regrettably, three subspecies are thought to be extinct: Caspian, Bali and Javan. Amur tigers are the biggest tigers, with Sumatran tigers being the smallest subspecies.



**Sumatran Tigers**



## Threats

Sadly, tigers are an endangered species under serious threat of extinction. Hunting and habitat loss have put tigers at risk and the tiger population has been vastly reduced to around 7 per cent of its former size.



**Amur Tiger Cubs**



## Behaviour

Baby tigers are called cubs and stay with their mother until they are about two years old, when they can hunt and kill prey for themselves.

Adult tigers are solitary creatures and protect the area they live in from other tigers. They often mark the trees in their territory with their urine and scratches to warn others off. Tigers will fight any threats to their area.

While spending most of their time on land, tigers are one of the very few cats that enjoy the water. In fact, they are good swimmers and often lounge around pools or streams to cool off from the daytime heat.

## Conservation

Scores of places around the world are working together to try and help population numbers of tigers recover. These include wildlife parks, zoos and national parks.

Tigers remain a protected species and there are laws against hunting tigers, trading furs and destroying their natural habitats.



# Questions

1. Approximately how long is a tiger's tail? Tick one.

- ☐ 4 metres
- ☐ the same length as its body
- ☐ about half the length of its body
- ☐ 30 centimetres

2. What is the name of the largest subspecies of tiger? Tick one.

- ☐ Sumatran
- ☐ Amur
- ☐ Javan
- ☐ Bengal

3. Fill in the missing words.

\_\_\_\_\_ help them blend in with the \_\_\_\_\_ patterns of light and shadow in the tall grass.

4. Explain why and how tigers hide their kill from plain sight.

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5. Look at the section titled **Description**.

Find and copy one word which means 'large' or 'heavy'.

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6. What is your favourite tiger fact? Explain why it is your favourite.

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7. Why is it important for tigers to have camouflage?

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8. **Tigers are a protected species.**

Why is this important? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

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- ☐ 4 metres
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2. What is the name of the largest subspecies of tiger? Tick one.

- ☐ Sumatran
- ☒ **Amur**
- ☐ Javan
- ☐ Bengal

3. Fill in the missing words.

**Stripes** help them blend in with the **vertical** patterns of light and shadow in the tall grass.

4. Explain why and how tigers hide their kill from plain sight.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Tigers may eat their kill over several days; therefore, they cover the carcass with leaves or drag it into bushes to prevent scavengers from eating it.**

5. Look at the section titled **Description**.

Find and copy one word which means 'large' or 'heavy'.

**cumbersome**

6. What is your favourite tiger fact? Explain why it is your favourite.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: My favourite tiger fact is that all tigers have a unique stripe pattern. I hadn't known this before, and it is a connection with humans as we all have our own individual fingerprints. I wonder if all animals with stripes, such as zebras, are the same.**



7. Why is it important for tigers to have camouflage?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think it is important for tigers to have camouflage so that they can stalk their prey without being seen. Tigers attack large mammals so they must use an element of surprise to ensure they can eat.**

8. **Tigers are a protected species.**

Why is this important? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: It is important that tigers are protected, otherwise there is a danger that they will become extinct; we would lose a world famous and historically significant wild animal. Tigers are also a key link in their ecosystem; if they became extinct, then their prey species would become overpopulated.**