

## Tigers

Tigers are the world's strongest and largest cats. A Siberian tiger can weigh as much as three people and grow to a length of twelve feet. Tigers are more than ten times stronger than people and are able to catch prey as large as wild ox. A tiger's stripes are designed to help it blend into its surroundings so it can hide from its prey. It can sneak up on prey and grab it with its sharp teeth and claws. When tigers hide waiting for prey, they are very quiet. These huge cats have excellent hearing and eyesight, which they rely on for hunting. A tiger's eyes glow in the dark, and its very sensitive whiskers help it find its way even in very dim light.

Like most cats, tigers are very territorial. Female tigers are more likely to allow their territories to overlap with territories of other females. They also have much smaller territories than males. Male tigers will share prey and even parts of their territory with females, but they will fight other males to the death to protect their space. When tigers mate, males make a funny face called a "Flehmen response" that helps them scent females.

There were once eight different kinds of tigers, but three of these types are now extinct and a ninth type was identified in 2004. The types of tigers that remain are Siberian tigers (the biggest), Bengal tigers, Indo-Chinese tigers, Sumatran tigers (the smallest), Malayan tigers and South China tigers. As you might guess, tigers are named for the region of the world from which they come. All tigers are all in danger of extinction due mostly to poachers who hunt and kill them for their fur. Poaching tigers is against the law, but sadly, that does not stop people from doing it. In some places, a poacher can get up to \$65,000 for the skin of one tiger. South China tigers are the most endangered tigers with less than a hundred left in the world and only a few dozen left in the wild. The Bengal tiger, which lives in India, is the largest tiger population with about 4000 living today.

Because of efforts to save tigers from extinction, there are actually more tigers in captivity than there are in the wild. In the wild, the total tiger population is estimated to be between 5,000 to 7,000 animals, while there are approximately 20,000 tigers in captivity.

## Tigers Questions

1. A tiger's stripes are designed
  - a. for no known reason.
  - b. to make it stand out among other animals in the jungle.
  - c. to help it blend into its surroundings.
  - d. None of these
  
2. Which statement is true?
  - a. Tigers have excellent eyesight but poor hearing.
  - b. Tigers have excellent eyesight and sensitive whiskers to help them get around in the dark.
  - c. Tigers are very quiet so they can hide in the dark.
  - d. Tigers have poor eyesight but excellent hearing.
  
3. Tigers
  - a. are territorial unlike most other cats.
  - b. are territorial like most other cats.
  - c. live in groups and share territory.
  - d. almost never get along with other tigers.
  
4. A female tiger is likely to share territory with
  - a. other females.
  - b. males.
  - c. Both of these
  - d. Neither of these
  
5. A male tiger is likely to share territory with
  - a. females.
  - b. other males.
  - c. Both of these
  - d. Neither of these
  
6. What is the name of the funny face that male tigers make when they are looking for females?

**Tigers Questions (Cont'd)**

7. Which statement is true?
  - a. All tigers are endangered.
  - b. Only South China tigers are endangered.
  - c. There were once twice as many types of tigers as there are today.
  - d. People have been able to save tigers from extinction.
  
8. Which statement is true?
  - a. There are more tigers in the wild than there are in captivity.
  - b. There are about the same number of tigers in the wild as there are in captivity.
  - c. It is not known how many tigers are in captivity.
  - d. There are more tigers in captivity than there are in the wild.
  
9. How many tigers are there in the wild?
  - a. between 1,000 and 2,000
  - b. between 5,000 and 7,000
  - c. between 10,000 and 15,000
  - d. about 20,000
  
10. How many tigers are there in captivity?
  - a. between 1,000 and 2,000
  - b. between 5,000 and 7,000
  - c. between 10,000 and 15,000
  - d. about 20,000

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Tigers Answers

1. c
2. b
3. b
4. c
5. a
6. a "Flehmen response"
7. a
8. d
9. b
10. d