



TIGERS

EBOOK FOR FANS

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INTRODUCTION



The Tigers are one of the big cats, a group that also includes lions, jaguars, and leopards.

The tiger is the largest cat in the world. Admired and feared, it has been a part of the stories and art of humans for thousands of years, and today it is a very popular animal around the world.

Their beautiful striped fur makes them easy to recognize from all other felines, and their mighty roar makes them detectable from miles away. Tigers (*Panthera tigris*), are native to the Asian continent and have six subspecies:

[Bengal tiger \(*Panthera tigris tigris*\)](#), [Siberian Tiger \(*P. t. altaica*\)](#), [Indochinese tiger \(*P. t. corbetti*\)](#), [Malayan tiger \(*P. t. Jacksoni*\)](#), [South China tiger \(*P. t. amoyensis*\)](#) and [Sumatran tiger \(*P. t. sumatrae*\)](#).

Many years ago they were distributed over a vast area extending from Turkey to the east coast of Russia, but now it is much smaller. Several subspecies became extinct, such as the [Bali tiger \(*P. t. balica*\)](#), the [Java tiger \(*P. t. sondaica*\)](#) and the [Caspian tiger \(*P. t. virgate*\)](#)



All subspecies are ruthless predators endowed with strength, skill and keen senses. They have been seen as symbols of power, but also as aggressive and dangerous animals. Regardless that, they are an important part of the world's biodiversity.



HABITAT & DISTRIBUTION



Tigers are native to Asia; although today they can be seen all over the world in captivity, their natural habitat is only on that continent. Today they are present in 13 countries:

Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, Russia, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam. It is possible that lately the populations of these cats have been reduced to only eight countries, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Russia, and Thailand.

They live in several types of habitat, all of which must have three requirements: proximity to a fresh water source, the abundance of prey and dense vegetation. Many live in tropical forests, as well as temperate forests, the evergreen forests of Assam and eastern Bengal, swamp forests with mangroves and other types of forests. Some dwell in grasslands, savannahs, and rocky terrains.

Siberian tigers (*Panthera tigris altaica*) are unique because they thrive in the cold Russian forests, usually covered with a thick layer of snow; these Tigers have a denser coat than the other subspecies to survive in that cold habitat.

Most tigers to protect and shelter settle inside caves, grottos, large trees and even the tall vegetation.

Unlike other cats, tigers are excellent swimmers.





ANATOMY



Each tiger has a particular striped pattern, so there are no two tigers with the same coat.

Tiger's body is built for hunting. Far from being the fastest or biggest animals in the world, they have key adaptations that make them efficient hunters to meet their needs. An adult tiger can reach up to 1.22 meters high to the shoulders and up to 3.90 meters in length, and weigh more than 300 kilograms, dimensions that exceed those of lions, jaguars, and pumas.

They have a flexible spine that ends at the tip of their tail and acts as a flexible central support for their paws and thorax. Their tail, long and slightly thick, helps them to maintain the balance when

walking and running, especially when making abrupt turns.

They have a robust skull, and large sharp teeth anchored to the jaws, which they use to pierce the skin and tear the flesh of their victims. Other lethal parts are their retractable claws in their fingers. The hind legs are longer than the front legs, but all have soft pads.

Their beautiful coat has orange tones in the background and thick dark stripes that run to the tip of the tail. Each tiger has a particular striped pattern, so there are no two tigers with the same coat.



The Siberian or Amur Tiger is the largest subspecies of all.



FEEDING



Tigers' favorite preys are ungulate animals, usually deer.

Nobody is astonished to know that Tigers have a great appetite, but it can be a surprise to discover that they do not strictly eat every day. Adults can spend up to two weeks without a snack, although when they eat, they can consume large amounts of food.

[Tigers are carnivorous mammals.](#) Their diet consists of a wide variety of prey but depends on the animals available in their particular habitat. Some common victims are wild boars (*Sus scrofa*), Sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*), water buffaloes (*Bubalus bubalis*), marsh deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*), Sika deer (*Cervus nippon*), saiga antelopes (*Saiga tatarica*),

porcupines (Order Rodentia) and hare (Family Leporidae). If they do not find food, they are sometimes forced to eat carrion or attack domestic livestock.

When they prepare to hunt, they mainly rely on their ear and sight. The tigers hunt by ambush. After detecting a prey, they walk

stealthily to approach it and lurk from a discreet distance, usually camouflaged between the tall and dense grass. In a quick and accurate movement, they catch their victim by surprise and give it a powerful bite on the neck or the head to kill it quickly.





BEHAVIOR



Most cats are solitary creatures, and Tigers are no exception. During most of their adult life, they roam and hunt alone, although while cubs they spend a lot of time with their mother and during the breeding season, they have to establish relationships with the opposite sex to mate. They are more active during the night, for that reason they do not usually interact with diurnal species. However, activity patterns may vary depending on the season and the activities of their prey.

Something that characterizes Tigers is that they are very territorial and maintain exclusive household ranges where they have easy access to food. The males' home ranges are larger than those of females, since, although they do not live in a herd, the male gender is dominant.

To secure their territory and warn others that they cannot enter, a tiger leaves scent marks or claws on trees or rocks. In addition to these visual and olfactory marks, Tigers watch the limits of their territory to avoid the entrance of intruders. When they are not inspecting, they prefer to spend time resting.

Tigers perform many vocalizations, such as roars and grunts.

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