

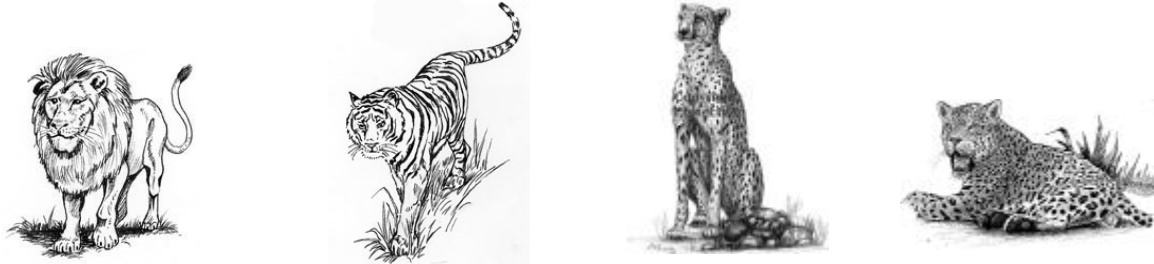
Big Cats Factfile

Name	Jaguar (<i>Panthera onca</i>)
Distribution	Mexico, Central and South America
Habitat	Mostly deciduous and tropical rain forests.
Diet	Deer, peccaries, monkeys, tapirs, small rodents, birds, reptiles and domestic stock
No of Young	Up to 6 cubs per litter
Lifespan	11 years in wild, up to 22 in captivity
Size	Length: Up to 8.5ft from head to tip of tail
Shoulder height	Up to 30inches
Weight	36 - 158kg
Status	Endangered

Using the fact-file above as a guide, produce your own information packs for each cat you have seen at Paradise Wildlife Park.

WHERE DO WE LIVE?

Identify each cat and locate on the map below the countries they originate from. Draw arrows from each animal to the correct country.



Tigers and more tigers

Read this passage about tigers and then answer the questions:

The tiger, which exists in Asian countries, was composed of eight different subspecies. They include the Indian, Indochinese, Siberian, Sumatran, Javan, South Chinese and Balinese tigers. Unfortunately it is feared that the last three of these tigers is extinct.

The Siberian tiger is the largest of the tigers with some adult males reaching lengths of up to 13 feet. The more common species including the Bengal and Indian tigers may reach lengths of up to ten feet. Wild tigers live to be about ten years old, but have been known to live almost twice as long in a zoo.

Virtually all species of cats will swim if they have to, but it appears that the tiger actually enjoy bathing and cooling itself off in ponds, rivers and lakes. It seems that because the tigers inhabit the hot and steamy jungles of Asia and India the tiger has discovered that water acts as a coolant.

Most tigers have an orange coat with dark brown or black stripes. Outside its natural habitat the tiger's stripes make them very visible. However, in the elephant grass and bushy undergrowth of the jungle their stripes act as a perfect camouflage to stalk prey.

Tigers prey usually on animals including deer, elk, wild pigs and bison. In the late afternoon the tiger arises from it's rest and is hungry. Hunting alone the tiger will stalk its prey until only a few yards away from it. Leaping from the undergrowth, using its forepaws and body weight, the tiger will bring its prey down. The killing bite is made to the throat with its canine teeth.

Unfortunately tigers do not catch their prey and successful hunts occur in three out of ten attempts. Tigers are rarely ever a threat to people and will instinctively avoid humans. However, it is people who are a threat to tigers. The greatest threat is the destruction of the tiger's habitat. With the

expansion of human populations, the logging of forests and the spread of agriculture, the tiger is competing with humans constantly.

With three species feared extinct already, there is much to do to ensure that the tiger does not disappear completely.

Tiger questions!

1. How many species of tigers were there?
2. How many of these are feared extinct and which ones?
3. How do tigers feel about water? Why?
4. What purpose do the tiger's stripes serve?
5. When do tigers usually hunt for prey?
6. Which animals does the tiger hunt? Describe how he/she catches them.
7. Do tigers always catch their prey?
8. What is the average age a tiger will live to in the wild and in captivity?
9. Which of the eight tiger subspecies is the largest? Which tiger subspecies is kept at Paradise Park?
10. What can we do to help conserve their environment in the wild?

Extra:

Draw a diagram of a food chain with a tiger somewhere within it.

Can you make your own quiz questions about other species of cat?
E.g. Which one has the loudest roar? What are a Jaguars spots called?

Tiger Chat

camouflage

prey

claws

jungle

capture

grassland

wildlife

environment

endangered

habitat

stalk

hunter

stripes

adaptation

powerful

scratching

carnivore

conservation

1. Write a paragraph using at least five of these words.
2. Find the dictionary meaning for five of the words.
3. Using the words;
BENGAL, TIGER, CONSERVATION, and ENDANGERED
How many other words can you make using the letters in these words?
4. Tigers are endangered species. Write a letter or an article expressing how you would help in the conservation of tigers and their environment

Latin Names

By using different sources such as the Internet and animal encyclopaedias research the Latin names of the cats homed at Paradise Wildlife Park. Can you fill in the missing letters of each word?

JAGUAR	P - - - - - O - - -
SNOW LEOPARD	- a - - - e - - - n c - -
OCELOT	F - - - - P - - d - - i -
PALLAS CAT	O - - c - - - b - - M - - u -
CHEETAH	A - - n - n - - x J - - - - u -
GEOFFROYS CAT	O - - - - e u - - - - r - y i
TIGER	P - - - - - r a T - - - i -
AFRICAN LION	- - - t - e r - - - o