





DO IT
FOR YOUR
PLANET

GREEN AMBASSADORS EXPLORE!

Welcome to Green Ambassadors Explore – our dedicated species poster series for young people. Each issue of Explore focuses on one key species and is packed full of fascinating facts and fun activities for you and your friends. This edition looks at tigers, and how you can help safeguard their future.

© NATUREPL.COM/EDWIN GIESBERS / WWF

OUR WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

WWF has a clear mission to care for the world around us. For over 30 years, we've been working with schools, youth groups and their communities to inspire young people to make positive choices for a more sustainable future.

Green Ambassadors is our flagship youth programme that enables young people (ages 5 – 16) to learn more about the natural world, explore and share their love for it, and feel inspired to safeguard it.

To support them, we provide a series of engaging resources and activities that enable them to build their knowledge and understanding of the natural world, and explore their values so they're motivated and equipped to enjoy and care for our beautiful planet.



DID YOU KNOW?



Tigers are fantastic swimmers and are often seen in water.



They make a huge range of sounds including growls, roars, moans, snarls, chuffs, hisses and gasps – probably to communicate to other tigers.



With huge ranges up to 100k sq km, tigers can walk hundreds of kilometres 'on patrol'. Amur tigers have much larger territories and cover the most distance.



They have super-soft pads on their feet, so they can move soundlessly when stalking prey.



Scent glands concentrated around their face on whiskers, cheeks and chin, under their tail and even between their toes enables them to mark their territories and helps them steer clear of conflict with other tigers.



A rare genetic mutation found only in Bengal tigers can result in a white tiger with blue eyes, pink nose and brown stripes.



Tigers are so powerful, they can take down prey weighing up to five times their own body weight.



Some people think that tiger urine smells like buttered popcorn!

To learn how to get involved in becoming a WWF Green Ambassador, visit us at wwf.org.uk/greenambassadors

TIGERS

THE SPECIES LOWDOWN

Of the nine different subspecies of tiger, three are extinct – Bali, Caspian and Javan – while the South China tiger hasn't been officially sighted since the 1970s and is feared extinct. The five remaining sub-species are endangered, two are critically endangered.

AMUR

Amur or Siberian tigers are the largest big cats weighing over 300kg. Found in the remote far-east of Russia, with a few individuals in China, they have little contact – and conflict – with people, but they're endangered largely because of habitat loss and decline in their natural prey due to hunting. They grow a long, thick coat to help them survive the harsh Siberian winters.



MALAYAN

Exact numbers are unknown, but the Malayan tiger is critically endangered. True to their name, Malayan tigers are found only on the Malay Peninsula and in the southern tip of Thailand. They live in the damp, hot rainforest habitat typical of the region.

INDOCHINESE

Small, endangered populations of these tigers exist in territories in south-east Asia. Most of these tigers are in Thailand, with a few tiny groups living in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos PDR. They live in the damp, hot rainforest habitat typical of the region.



BENGAL

There are fewer than 2,650 Bengal tigers left in the wild and 2,200 of them are found in India. They can weigh up to 260kg and can measure over 3m from nose to tail. They have slightly lighter coats and striped patterns than their forest-dwelling relatives.



SUMATRAN

Around 450 of these, the smallest of all tigers, remain on the island of Sumatra. They have very distinctive heavy black stripes on an almost pure orange coat to make sure they're perfectly camouflaged in their darker, jungle habitat.



VITAL STATISTICS

FEEDING AND HUNTING

Tigers eat lots of meat – an adult male can eat up to 20% of his body weight in 24 hours. They need about 50 big kills a year to survive; each can keep a tiger going for a week. They hunt mostly deer – sambar, swamp, chital, red and rusa, but only one in 10 hunting trips are successful so they'll take almost anything – birds, fish, rodents, insects, amphibians and reptiles. Solitary hunters, they use stealth and camouflage to creep to the crucial 20 metres ambush distance. Attacks are explosive, but the chase won't last more than 150m and the 'hunt' is quick. Tigers drag their catch to a safer place, sometimes burying it for later.

BREEDING

Females have their first litter at three to four years of age. Pregnancy lasts 3.5 months, producing up to four 1kg cubs. Cubs are totally reliant on their mother until weaning at six months but still need her to hunt for them until they get their permanent canine teeth at a year old. They leave her a year later to find their own territories. She'll be ready to breed again soon after. Wild tigers have a natural lifespan of about 15 years.

WHY ARE TIGERS UNDER THREAT?

POACHING

Tiger parts have been used in traditional Asian medicine for hundreds of years to treat things like rheumatism, leprosy, cataracts, toothache, various skin diseases, muscle aches and malaria. Although there's no scientific evidence to prove it works, there's a strong cultural confidence in tiger parts which are still highly prized. Tiger parts are also in growing demand in the form of status symbols such as tiger bone wine. The emergence of a new wealthy middle class in China, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia is fuelling demand and with high prices for goods, poachers are willing to risk it despite strong penalties. Recent confiscations

HABITAT LOSS

Tigers have lost pretty much all their territory in the past 150 years – their ranges have shrunk by nearly 95% in the last three generations. As human populations grow, wild areas are wiped out for roads and infrastructure, making it hard for the animals to move around and breed.

from the illegal wildlife trade include bones, claws, skulls and teeth. The beautiful skins of tigers have always been much sought-after, along with trinkets made from tiger body parts. Their meat is still eaten. Tigers are still very much in demand as pets too. There are more tigers in captivity in the USA than are left in the wild.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change could also speed up this habitat loss. If the projected sea level rise happens in the watery Sunderbans swamps, it would submerge 96% of the tiger's breeding habitat there. Intense droughts in south-east Asia could also affect vulnerable and fragmented pockets of rainforest territories for jungle-living tigers.

HUMAN AND WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Contact between tigers and people is on the increase, and that's down to an ever-growing human population. The number of people living in Asia's 13 different tiger range countries doubled in 40 years to 3.2bn in 2005. This means that tigers can get pushed out of their habitat and may end up going into villages and killing livestock, and even harming people. Conflict between tigers and humans can end badly for both people and tigers. People sometimes kill tigers to protect their livelihoods and families.

© MARTIN HARVEY / WWF, VLADIMIR FILONOV / WWF, CONNIE LEMPERIE / WWF-GREATER MEKONG, ANDREW PARKINSON / WWF, EDWIN GIESBERS / WWF

ACTIVITIES TO CONNECT WITH NATURE

Take inspiration and ideas from our hub of seasonal and fun creative activities that are designed to encourage young people to get outside, get creative using recycled materials, and learn more about nature and sustainability.

greenambassadors.org.uk/activities



ACTIVITIES: GET UP AND GO

AD CAMPAIGN

Come up with a campaign to change people's minds about using tiger parts as status symbols. You could design a poster to make people think twice before buying or using such products, or plan a documentary debunking the myths surrounding traditional remedies containing tiger parts. You could also write a letter to the government of a tiger territory country explaining how they could intervene to stop poaching.

IS THAT YOUR TIGER? (IDEAL FOR YOUNGER AGES)

Amongst your friends, choose a 'ranger' who then goes out of the room. The rest of you are tigers, stalking around the room and pouncing on their prey. When the leader calls out 'sleepy tiger', everyone curls up on the floor - just like a sleeping tiger. The leader then covers over one sleeping tiger in a blanket, as if they are hidden in the jungle. The ranger comes back into the room, and the leader says "It's time to wake up". Everyone except the 'tiger' under the blanket stands up and the ranger has to guess who's missing. The tiger under the blanket can growl, roar, moan, snarl, chuff, hiss and gasps if anyone comes too close, until their identity is guessed. No-one can touch the tiger under the blanket as they are too dangerous.

RECYCLABLE FOREST MURAL

Soak an old white sheet in water and then hang it on a clothesline or drape over a fence. Using lots of different paints and applicators – sponges, paintbrushes, squirty bottles – create a forest scene, including all the animal and tree species you can think of. You can mute and mix colours with a water-filled spray bottle, or even wash the whole lot off with a hose. You can make this a smaller project by using a pillowcase or t-shirt.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP

Support WWF

By adopting a tiger with WWF, you can help us to achieve our goal of doubling the number of wild tigers to over 6,000 by 2022. We're working with governments, business and local communities to:

- secure laws to support tigers
- restore fragmented areas of habitat so tigers can move around more easily and find a mate
- support anti-poaching patrols in tiger habitat
- stop the trade in live tigers and tiger parts by reducing the demand for tiger parts used in both traditional medicines and as status symbols
- increase the numbers and variety of natural prey so tigers don't have to stray near people and take livestock.

Your support will also help fund our other essential work around the world

Go to wwf.org.uk/tigeradopt to find out more.



© NATUREPL.COM/NICK GARbutt / WWF

HOW YOUR ADOPTION CAN HELP

- £60 (or £5 a month) could restore one hectare of grassland to increase numbers of tiger prey in Nepal's Terai Arc
- £100 (or £8.50 a month) could pay for a comprehensive medical kit for staff in Dudhwa National Park in India
- £200 (or £16 a month) could pay for the development of a biogas plant in a local Himalayan community. Biogas plants produce energy from rotting waste, reducing the need for the local people to cut down trees and therefore helping to maintain the tigers habitat.

Go to wwf.org.uk/tigeradopt to find out more.



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

wwf.org.uk