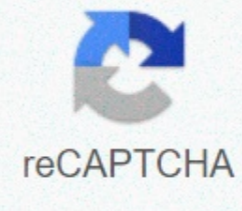




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Tiger camouflage facts

Brought by Cuteness Anup Shah/Photodisc/Getty Images The only big cat with stripes, tigers live in fragmented habitats throughout East and Central Asia. Their fur is mostly orange, with southern species with rich, almost reddish hues and northern species with paler coloring. Black or brown stripes appear not only on their fur, but also on their skin. Tigers fur actually helps them blend into their environment. The stripes of tigers help them hide in their favorite habitats, such as grasslands and forests, where shadows and branches create a dotted effect that matches the stripes. Combined with the lack of color perception of many animals, this allows tigers to remain camouflaged while stalking their prey. Ambush attackers, before they strike they crawl within 15 to 30 feet of potential prey, including deer, elk, water buffaloes, wild pigs and other large ungulates, as well as bears, young rhinos and even elephants. Tigers live in a range of environments, from tropical areas in South Asia to subfreezing zones of Siberia, where temperatures can drop to 40 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. Fur helps the northern subspecies, such as the Amur or Siberian tiger, survive extreme cold; they have longer, thicker and denser furs than southern subspecies, and they grow heavier coats during the winter months. In warmer climates where tigers need to cool down, they use their camouflage stripes to lounge in shadow streams and ponds. Like human fingerprints, no tiger stripes are exactly the same as any other, although subspecies have similarly shaped markings. While humans may have difficulty distinguishing individual tigers based only on stripes, it is possible that the different patterns, along with odor markings, help tigers identify each other. The biggest threat to the survival of tigers is humans. Their beautiful coat serves as a major boost for poachers, and a black market trade exists for fur coats, tapestries and carpets. Their bones are prized in traditional Chinese medicine. Along with habitat destruction, excessive hunting has decimated a number of subspecies, such as Siberian, South China and Sumatran tigers, which are now critically endangered. Conservationists believe that the beautiful look and charismatic charm of tigers can help preserve the species. Zoos are implementing species survival plans, and ecotourism programs have launched in some areas with large tiger populations. References (6) Photo Credits Anup Shah / Photodisc / Getty Images are Bengal tiger Kingdom Animalia Phylum Mammalia Order Carnivora Family Felidae Genus Panthera Species Panthera Subspecies Panthera tigris tigris Length Head and body is 5 – 6 ft (1.5 – 1.8 m), tail is 2 – 3 ft (0.6 – 0.9 m) Weight 250 – 500 lbs (113 – 227 kg) Lifespan 8 – 10 years in the wild social structure structure Conservation Status Endangered Preferred Habitat Dense forest and jungle Average Litter Size 2 – 6 cubs Main Prey Species Buffalo, deer, wild pigs and other large mammals Main threats People The Basics The Bengal Tiger (Panthera tigris tigris) - also known as the Royal Bengal tiger or the Indian tiger - is a subspecies of tiger mainly found in India. However, they can also be found in Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh and China. It is the most common of the tiger subspecies and accounts for more than half of all tigers left in the wild. About 3,400 Bengal tigers remain in native habitat. Bengal tigers are mainly solitary animals. They smell vast areas to warn rivals to stay away. These tigers are nocturnal hunters and can travel many miles to find their prey. They mainly hunt buffalo, deer, feral pigs and other large mammals. A hungry tiger can eat as much as 60 pounds in one night, although they usually eat less. When tigers are not hunting, or moving, they are most likely to sleep. These big cats can sleep between 16 and 18 hours a day! Females can give birth to a litter every two years. She can have up to seven cubs, but usually only two survive. The female takes care of the cubs with little or no help from the male and cannot kill enough to feed them all. Aside from hunger, cubs can also succumb to illness and accidents. The cubs stay with the female for two to three years, when they leave to find their own territory. So far, the mother takes care of them and teaches them how to hunt and survive. Cubs often hone their skills by fighting and struggling with each other, as well as practicing their ambush on their resting mother. A female Bengal tiger with her cubs The biggest threat to Bengal tigers comes from humans. As the human population grows, the forests become smaller and fragmented, reducing their natural habitat. This may mean that the tigers have less food to hunt through dwindling habitat or because they compete with humans for the same prey. People also sometimes hunt tigers, even though this is often illegal because tigers are protected in many areas. Tigers will usually avoid humans, although a few have become dangerous to humans. This is usually because the animals are sick or because they are in an area where their traditional prey has disappeared. Interesting insights from the Bengal tiger! Tigers are the largest member of the cat family and are known for their strength and strength. These powerful predators have some biological adaptations that make them very successful hunters. Striped fur makes them camouflaged Tigers can be in forests or jungle areas with lots of trees and long grass. When the sunlight filters through the trees and the grass, shadows form. The pattern of the tiger's fur corresponds to the shadows that allow the cats to blend into their environment. The stripes streaks Work on breaking the tiger body shape, which also helps them to be camouflaged between the trees and grass. Camouflage is used by various animals to hide from predators or sneak onto prey. The type of camouflage used by the tiger is known as disruptive camouflage, where the color patterns make it difficult for other animals to see the contours of the tiger's body. By interfering in their surroundings, tigers can sneak up on their prey and lurk ready to strike. There are several other forms of camouflage. The most common is background matching, or hiding color, where the animal blends into its environment. For example, squirrels are usually brown to blend in with the earth colors of their habitat, and bones are colored to blend into their seabed habitat. Apart from orange and black, these tigers can also be black with tan stripes, all white (albino), or white and brown. White Bengal tigers are a rarity and occur due to a gene mutation. The stripes on a tiger are like human fingerprints, no two tigers have the same stripes, and so this pattern of stripes can be used to keep tigers apart. Tiger stripes help it to blend into its environment. Tigers Communicate Using Infrasound Tigers have incredibly sharp hearing and communicating in booming low-frequency sounds. Researchers have discovered that tigers hear and communicate using infrasound, which are sound waves that are below the range of sounds that can normally be heard by most species (20 hertz). Infrasound is usually inaudible to humans. Tigers use these low sounds to make their presence known, whether it's to scare rivals away or to attract a mate. Low frequency sounds carry better than high frequency sounds, allowing tigers to communicate over long distances or through dense forest vegetation. Other large animals such as whales, elephants and giraffes use infrasound to communicate over long distances. The Bengal tiger can reach speeds of up to 60 km per hour! Tigers have Immense Physical Strength Tigers have made several physical adjustments that make them very efficient hunters. Their strength and muscle structure make them extremely fast runners and excellent swimmers. Tigers are so fast that they are recorded as reaching speeds of up to 60 km per hour! Their flexible spines and long hind legs allow them to jump up to 33 ft in a single jump. This allows them to lie lurking and crawl close enough to attack, quickly pouncing on their prey and surprising them. They also have razor-sharp retractable claws. They use their claws to fight each other, mutilate and kill their prey to climb trees. Tigers & Tiger Facts A tiger is a lone big cat with a distinctive orange and black striped coat. There are only about 3,800 tigers left in the wild. There are nine subspecies of tiger, three of which are extinct, one is extinct in the wild. The subspecies are: tiger subspecies Region of origin: India Estimated remaining population: less than 2,000 Indochinese tiger subspecies Region of origin: Southeast Asia (Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Cambodia, Southwest China) Estimated remaining population: 750 – 1,300 Amur (Siberian) tiger subspecies Of origin: Russia & China Getting population: 450 Sumatran tiger subspecies Origin: Sumatra Aesthet of remaining population: 400 – 500 Malayan tiger subspecies Area of origin : Malaysia Rated remaining population: 600 – 800 South Chinese tiger subspecies Area of origin : South China Estimate remaining population: Extinct in the wild Caspian tiger subspecies Region of origin: Middle East and Central Asia Estimate remaining population: Extinct Javanese tiger subspecies Area of origin: Indonesian island Java Thesting remaining population: Extinct Bali tiger subspecies Region of origin: Bali Estimated remaining population: Extinct Tiger stripes are like human fingerprints - the stripes are unique to each individual. Scientists can set up camera traps to take pictures of the side of a tiger so they can count the population in an area. The larger of the species live in colder places such as east Russia and northeast China, and smaller subspecies live in warmer climates in Southeast Asia, such as India, Nepal, Cambodia and Vietnam. Tigers can live in many different environments, from grasslands to forests and tropical forests, swamps, rainforests and snowy landscapes. Tigers are solitary animals, apart from when they mate and raise their cubs. They are also mostly nocturnal, with a very good night vision that they use to hunt in the dark. They are strong swimmers and like water and are seen to hunt while swimming as well. They have very large areas that they mark as their own and defend fiercely. Tigers usually eat large mammals, such as deer, feral pigs, water buffaloes and antelopes. They are also known to hunt dogs, crocodiles and pythons and, when old and injured, they can hunt pets. Tigers are the biggest of all Asian big cats and they can weigh in at 300kg, or 47 stone! The oldest tiger to live in the wild was 26. Survival for tiger cubs can be difficult and about half of all cubs do not survive past the age of 2. Despite being solitary, mother tigers are seen with their cubs. A group of tigers is called an 'ambush' or a 'stripe' of tigers. The generally accepted collective nouns for tigers are an ambush of tigers or a stripe of tigers. Tigers.