

Lesson Plan—

Objectives— students will be able to

- list facts about a tiger-what it eats; why it has stripes; what is a typical tiger family; how large is each subspecies; and what are the facts about how tigers hunt.
- name three subspecies of tigers
- name the three extinct subspecies of tigers
- list the areas where tigers live in the wild
- identify reasons why tigers are becoming extinct in the wild

answers:-

- Tigers are carnivores, or meat eaters. They eat the entire animal, including hide, hooves, and intestines. Although their orange coats with black stripes and white patches are conspicuous in a captive tiger, wild tigers blend in well with their natural surroundings. The black lines serve to break up their body shape in tall grasslands. These stripes also serve as identifying markers because, just like human fingerprints, no two tigers have the same pattern of stripes. Even the white tiger is camouflaged in nature. If you shave a tiger's fur, the striping pattern is on his skin, not just his fur.

Tigers are solitary animals, coming together only to mate. The female tiger's gestational period is approximately 3 months. An average of 2-3 cubs is born with only half surviving. Cubs stay with their mother for about 2 years. Male tigers will share their territory with a female tiger but will not tolerate other males. Tigers mark their territory by scratching trees, scraping the ground and spraying trees, rocks, and bushes with urine.

Siberian tigers are the largest of all the tiger subspecies. They can grow to up to 1000 pounds at adulthood. Bengal tigers are smaller, weighing up to 570 pounds. The Indo Chinese weighs from 330-430 pounds, the South Chinese about 350 pounds, the Sumatran about 300 pounds.

Tigers are nocturnal (hunt at night) and are successful only 10-20% of the time. They ambush their prey, from behind and use their body size to overpower and knock large prey off balance. Tigers can reach speeds of about 35 miles per hour but only for brief distances, about 80 feet. Tigers prefer to bite the throat of their prey, crushing the windpipe and severing the jugular vein or carotid artery. The tiger uses his whiskers to determine when his prey is dead.

- the five surviving subspecies are:

1. Bengal Tiger - *Panthera tigris tigris*
2. Siberian (Amurian) Tiger - *Panthera tigris altaica*
3. Sumatran Tiger - *Panthera tigris sumatrae*
4. Indo-Chinese Tiger - *Panthera tigris corbetti*
5. South China Tiger - *Panthera tigris amoyensis*

- the three extinct subspecies are:

1. Javan Tiger - *Panthera tigris sondaica* - extinct since early 1980's
2. Bali Tiger - *Panthera tigris balica* - extinct since the 1940's
3. Caspian Tiger - *Panthera tigris virgata* - extinct since the early 1970's

- Where tigers live in the wild:

It is believed that tigers evolved in northern China and Far East Asia approximately two million years ago. They then migrated through woodlands and along river systems into southwest Asia. In the south and southeast directions, tigers moved

through continental southeast Asia, crossing into the Indonesian islands before they separated from mainland, and finally reached India.

1. India--In India, the tiger is found practically throughout the country, from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin, except in Punjab, Kutch and the deserts of Rajasthan. In the northeast, its range extends into Burma. Tigers occupy a variety of habitats including tropical evergreen forests, deciduous forests, mangrove swamps, thorn forests and grass jungles.
2. China
3. Indonesia
4. Siberia in Russia

Why tigers are becoming extinct in the wild

1. encroachment of habitats—a male tiger's territory might encompass up to 25 square miles while a female's range is about 10 square miles.
2. Poaching—Until it was banned, trophy hunting and a market for tiger rugs and coats threatened the tiger's survival. An insatiable demand for tiger parts has resulted in “tiger farming” in China but these farms do not decrease poaching on wild tigers. In many Asian cultures, tiger parts are thought to cure diseases such as rheumatism, convulsions, typhoid fever, and dysentery. Tiger bones used in these traditional medicines sell for as much as \$75 to \$115 per pound—as much as some villagers make in a year.
3. loss of food source
4. population growth—In Russia, logging threatens the Siberian tiger's already shrinking habitat. Poaching has greatly increased since the borders between Russia, China and North Korea opened.

In 1972, India led the world in efforts to save the tiger by setting aside a number of areas as tiger reserves complete with patrolling guards. But poaching continues due to widespread corruption and a lack of alternative incomes for village populations that continue to grow, sometimes within the tiger reserves.