

Tigers

Tigers are the largest felines in the world. They can be found living in Russia, China and south-east Asia. There are several species of tiger, including the Bengal, Siberian and Sumatran tiger.

Appearance

Tigers have large, muscular bodies covered in orange fur patterned with black or dark stripes. A tiger's stripes are unique to each animal. Some tigers can be white with black stripes but these are rare. The size of tigers varies according to their subspecies, with females usually being smaller than males. Siberian tigers are the largest and can grow to over 3 metres (9.8 feet) in length.



Diet

Tigers are predatory carnivores that hunt for their prey. They are solitary hunters and wait until night to pursue food, which includes large mammals like deer, buffalo and antelope. Sometimes, they will eat smaller prey such as monkeys and fish. A tiger's colour allows it to camouflage before it uses its speed and strength to bring down its prey. It uses its sharp teeth and claws to kill an animal.



Habitat

Tigers live in a range of habitats, which include rainforests, grasslands and mangrove swamps. Where they live depends upon their species. An ideal habitat is one which is close to a water source, provides cover and has plenty of prey.

Reproduction

Tigers are solitary animals and only come together to reproduce. A female tiger is pregnant for around three months and usually gives birth to two or three cubs. The mother teaches her cubs how to hunt and by the age of two, they become fully independent.

Conservation

Tigers are endangered, with fewer than 6000 of them living in the wild. Habitat destruction and poaching are the main threats to their survival.